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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19388 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1996 TISHREI 17, 5757 ISRAELI SHEKEL (NIS 5.70)

11 IDF soldiers, over 30 Palestinians killed

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

YASSER Arafat's police force made the IDF bleed yesterday, in a violent day of gun battles in Judea, Samaria and Gaza that left 11 soldiers and more than 30 Palestinians dead and hundreds wounded. It was the worst fighting in the territories since Palestinian self-rule began.

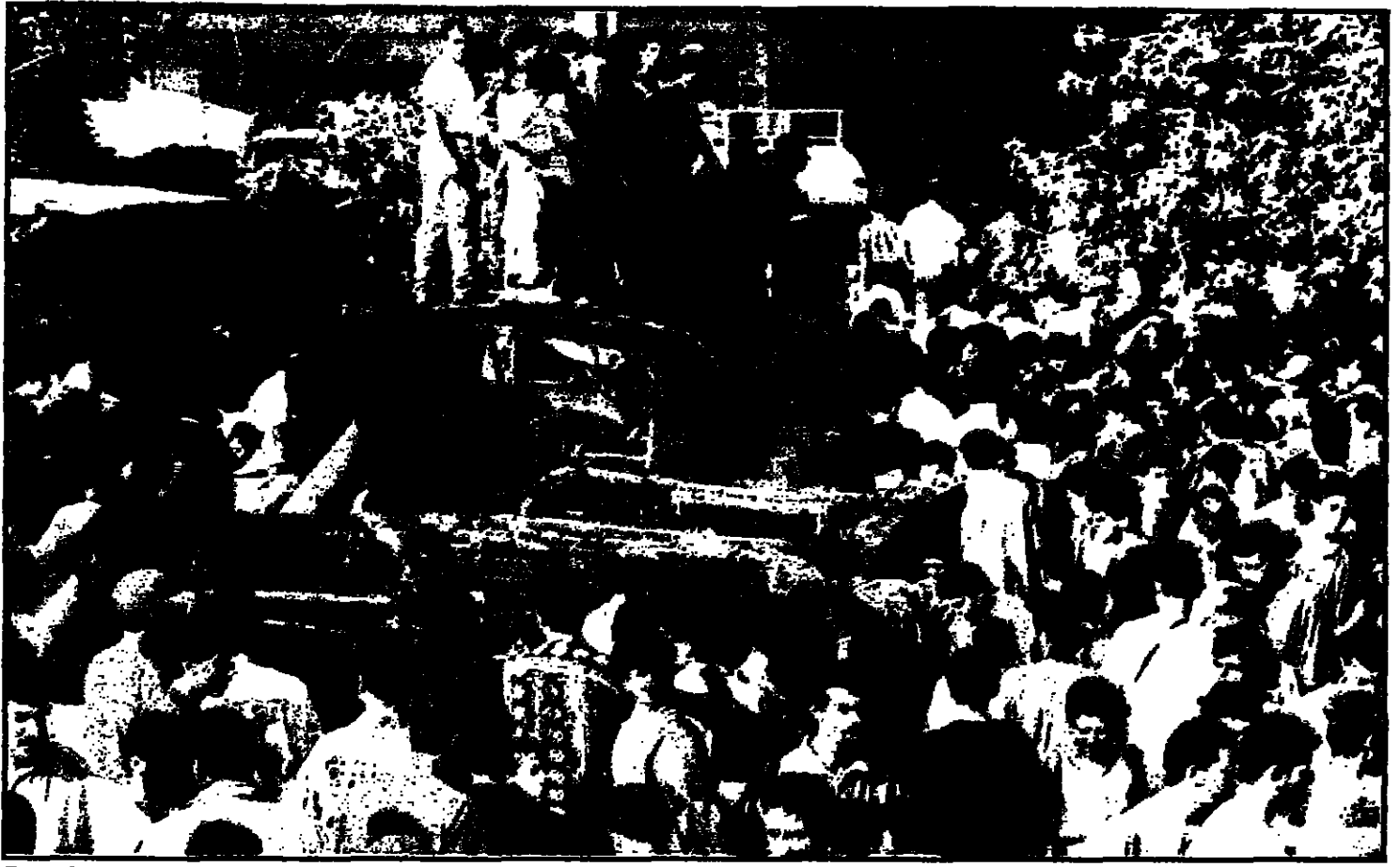
Nine of the soldiers killed were identified by the IDF Spokesman as:

- Maj. Avraham Maimon, 23, of Givatayim;
- Capt. Nir Barzasky, 21, of Zichron Ya'acov;
- Capt. Benny Biton, 22, of Rishon LeZion;
- Lt. Michael Dadosh, 22, of Moshav Alma;
- St.-Sgt. Chen Koren, 20, from Ma'aleh Ephraim;
- St.-Sgt. Itamar Sadoudai, 21, of Ar Adumim;
- St.-Sgt. Erez Sharabi, 20, of Tel Aviv;
- St.-Sgt. Uri Ben-Tov, 21, of Bat Yam;
- Sgt. Yehuda Levy, 20, of Kiryat Ata.

The names of the other two had not been released by midnight last night. Six of the soldiers died in Nablus, four in Gaza, and one at the A-Ram junction north of Jerusalem.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai declared a state of emergency in the territories and all available regular soldiers were rushed to the West Bank to help suppress the escalating conflict.

A total of 58 Israelis were wounded in the gunfights, including two listed in critical condition, and 11 in serious condition. Three of the wounded were civilians. Palestinian health officials told news agencies that 762 Palestinians were wounded. Thirty-two Palestinians were



Palestinians stand atop three burned-out IDF jeeps outside Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday. Six IDF soldiers were killed in battles at the tomb. (Khaled Zuhair)

killed, according to the Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights, though other reports say 35 died. The breakdown is:

- Bethlehem - two killed, 148 wounded
- Ramallah - seven killed, 40 wounded
- Nablus - two killed, 181 wounded
- Hebron - 33 wounded
- Gaza - 21 killed, 350 wounded

Defense for Children International reported that five of those killed in the past two days were aged 12 to 16, and that in Gaza 42 of the

wounded are under 17.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu cut short his European trip yesterday and returned home for emergency consultations.

After three-and-a-half hours, Netanyahu and the inner cabinet ministers were still in session late last night to discuss future actions.

Officials in Jerusalem were hopeful last night that Arafat would agree to a meeting today. However, there was concern last night that Arafat would delay a meeting until he knew in advance what gestures he could

expect from Netanyahu, and because he believed that the Friday prayers, coupled with funerals of Palestinians, would enhance his bargaining position.

US officials were carrying messages back and forth between Netanyahu and Arafat last night.

PLO officials said they doubted Arafat would meet Netanyahu now, adding both sides were studying a proposal by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a three-way summit.

The army has sealed off the territories. All training in the Central Command has been halted and, for the first time in recent memory, tanks have been dispatched to road junctions,

- ### News highlights
- **PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu** cut short his European trip to return home yesterday. Stringent measures to curb the violence of the last two days are expected to be taken following an emergency security cabinet meeting late last night. Page 2
 - **A THREE-WAY summit** between Netanyahu, PA leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is being discussed. Page 2
 - **HUNDREDS** of Palestinian policemen and armed demonstrators stormed Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday, killing six soldiers and wounding eight others. They ransacked parts of the adjacent yeshiva, and then reportedly protected the IDF soldiers like prisoners of war. Page 2
 - **FOUR IDF soldiers** and 24 Palestinians were reported killed in battles in the Gaza Strip yesterday. An estimated 30 Israelis and some 300 Palestinians were wounded. Page 2
 - **DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai** imposed a state of emergency in the territories yesterday, and blasted Palestinian Police commanders for not exerting control over their men. Page 5
 - **JERUSALEM'S** police force is being nearly doubled in anticipation of unrest at today's prayers at Al-Aksa on the Temple Mount. Page 22
 - **PRESIDENT Bill Clinton** yesterday called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to defuse the tension in the territories and resume final-status negotiations. Page 4

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US seeks Israeli gesture to defuse tension

Netanyahu speaks with Arafat

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher asked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday to take "concrete steps" after meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat that would end the fighting and lead to the renewal of negotiations on Hebron as soon as Sunday, diplomatic sources said.

Netanyahu cut short his trip to Europe yesterday and returned home for emergency consultations.

After three-and-a-half hours, Netanyahu and the inner cabinet ministers were still meeting late last night to discuss moves.

Officials in Jerusalem were hopeful that Arafat would agree to a meeting today. However, there was concern last night that Arafat may be holding out until he knows in advance what kind of gesture he will receive from Netanyahu.

US officials were passing messages between Netanyahu and Arafat last night.

PLO officials said they doubted Arafat would meet Netanyahu today, adding both sides were studying a proposal by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a three-way sum-

mit with Arafat and Netanyahu.

Another official, Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh, told Reuters: "There are attempts to hold summit meetings. This will be decided in the next few hours."

According to diplomatic sources, Christopher mentioned a "gesture" of perhaps closing the Hasmoean Tunnel, but was careful to say there may be other gestures Israel could make as part of a deal with Arafat.

These diplomatic sources said that the US is not asking Israel to make any unilateral moves, since it remains uncertain whether Arafat would respond in kind. Rather, Christopher was hopeful that a Netanyahu-Arafat meeting would be arranged immediately so that a deal could be worked out.

The Christopher-Netanyahu phone call, held before the premier left Germany yesterday afternoon, is believed to have triggered the Netanyahu call to Arafat asking for a meeting as soon as possible.

It seems that the US pointedly avoided

demanding that Netanyahu close the tunnel, acknowledging the premier's domestic constraints regarding making concessions to Arafat in Jerusalem.

According to a senior official, who briefed reporters on the plane on the way back from Bonn, Netanyahu asked Arafat if he had full control of the situation on the ground. The Palestinian leader reportedly replied he was in control "80 percent," leading Netanyahu to ask Arafat to take full control.

Indeed, for the first time since the start of the crisis, Arafat made an announcement on Palestine Television and Voice of Palestine Radio yesterday afternoon calling for restraint. The Arafat call came after direct requests by US Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington, sources said.

Late in the day, Arafat dispatched top security officials Col. Jibril Rajoub and Haj Ismail Jabr to Nablus to negotiate the exit of IDF soldiers at Joseph's Tomb. Mohammed Dahlan also returned immediately from abroad and held talks with Arafat.

Six fall in battle for Joseph's Tomb

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HUNDREDS of Palestinian policemen and armed demonstrators stormed Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday, killing six soldiers and wounding eight others. They ransacked parts of the adjacent yeshiva, and then reportedly protected the Israeli soldiers like prisoners of war.

The IDF rushed an armored column to the outskirts of the city, but refrained from moving tanks into the Palestinian-controlled territory.

At one point, the IDF district brigade commander led a force that broke through to the 42 soldiers trapped inside the yeshiva, but the force suffered heavy casualties in the attempt.

"There was a riot at Joseph's Tomb which turned into a real battle," said OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan. "We have wounded and dead, and we are now in the midst of an operation there."

Shortly after he spoke to reporters, Dayan boarded a helicopter to Nablus to oversee the evacuation of the wounded and

dead. The IDF had received permission from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to abandon the tomb.

But negotiations on the evacuation dragged on until the evening. Some of the dead and wounded were moved out in an IDF armored personnel carrier, but others were only taken from inside the tomb at nightfall, when the Palestinian Police, under heavy pressure from Israel, imposed a curfew on the area.

The battle began when an angry mob stormed Joseph's Tomb in the morning, hurling anything that came to hand. They were joined by Palestinian policemen, who opened fire at the soldiers inside.

The soldiers called for help, but the reinforcements came under a hail of stones and bullets, forcing them to abandon their vehicles. An IDF helicopter attempted to evacuate the wounded but was turned back by the heavy gunfire.

At one point, the mob attacking the Israeli pocket inside Nablus, the

West Bank's largest city, overturned Border Police jeeps and set at least six of them and an APC alight. Once the armored column reached the tomb, most of the wounded were treated and evacuated.

Palestinian witnesses said the Palestinian policemen were keeping many of the demonstrators away from the tomb and treating the Israeli wounded.

Other witnesses said residents later brought the soldiers soft drinks and water and gave them cellular telephones to call their families.

A Palestinian flag was said to be flying atop the tomb's dome, instead of the Israeli flag, witnesses said.

Dayan and OC Judea and Samaria Maj-Gen. Gabi Ophir negotiated with Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian Preventive Security, and Gen. Haj Ismail Jabr, West Bank police commander, to resolve the siege.

According to him, fresh IDF troops arrived late last night to secure the tomb.

Four soldiers, 24 Palestinians dead in Gaza Strip fighting

HERB KEINON

FOUR IDF soldiers and 24 Palestinians were reported killed in battles in the Gaza Strip yesterday. An estimated 30 Israelis and some 300 Palestinians were wounded.

The IDF moved massive reinforcements, including tanks, combat helicopters, and half-tracks into position in the region, following hours of gun battles with Palestinians, including Palestinian policemen, at a number of locations in the Strip.

The battles started in the morning at Kfar Darom, and then spread to the Netzarim, Erez, Morag and Gush Katif junctions. The IDF reported that one soldier was killed at the Gush Katif Junction, and two at Netzarim. It was not clear last night where the fourth soldier fell.

Thousands of Palestinians took part in the attacks, the IDF said. Army officials said that the pattern was for the Palestinians to start throwing rocks and fire-bombs, which were then followed by live gunfire. Gun battles took place throughout most of the day at Erez.

The IDF used tear gas and rubber bullets to try to stop the riots in the region, and then turned to live ammunition. Attack helicopters flew over the area, but were not deployed.

"We are here with all the force we need, and are ready for all possible options," OC Southern Command Maj-Gen. Shlomo Yanai said, at a briefing at the Kissufim crossing. "We are keeping a variety of vehicles here that we will use if needed. Our goal is

unequivocally to ensure security for soldiers and residents."

As Yanai was speaking, an IDF bulldozer was plowing a large field near the junction, readying it for heavy equipment the IDF was moving into the area.

Yanai said that following Wednesday's violence in Judea and Samaria, there were attempts to coordinate with the Palestinian Police to prevent more disturbances. These efforts failed, he said.

"We spoke throughout the day with the Palestinians and their officers," he said. "Unfortunately, in the early morning they did not succeed in calming down the situation. In the afternoon they tried more, and we are seeing the results. Now it is quiet, with only occasional gunfire."

Yanai said there were not enough Palestinian Police officers in the field to put an end to

the violence. He said that the PA did not show that it was in control of the situation, and that even in areas where they promised they would stop the shooting, they were unable to do so.

The fighting in the area began at about 7 in the morning, when hundreds of Palestinians converged on the fence surrounding the settlement of Kfar Darom.

Nissim Luzon from Kfar Darom said that the only way he could describe the situation there was "war. I have been in wars. People firing at each other for five hours constitutes a war."

Luzon said most of the men were at morning prayers when the shooting started, and rushed to get their weapons and take up positions at the fence around the settlement. The women and children were instructed to stay indoors.

Michal Deutsch, another Kfar Darom resident, said that she

could both hear and see the bullets flying past her windows. Some of the houses in the settlement were hit, and instructions were given to people living in mobile homes to vacate them and take shelter in the settlement's permanent structures. She said she tried to keep her children in inner rooms inside her home.

Asked how she explained the situation to them, she said, "There is nothing to explain, they see what is going on."

Deutsch said that the Palestinians began by throwing rocks from the main road into the settlement and that this quickly degenerated into shooting. Yanai said that shots were fired by Palestinian policemen, who were among the demonstrators.

Some 10 soldiers were wounded in Kfar Darom, including the area brigade commander, Col.

Assaf Shavit. He was taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, where his condition was listed as serious.

Palestinians then marched on IDF outposts at the Morag, Netzarim, Gush Katif, and Erez junctions. Yanai said that there were also attacks on the IDF outposts separating Khan Yunis from several settlements. He denied reports that an outpost near Rafiah was overrun.

Gush Katif spokeswoman Dalia Itzhaki said that some shots were fired at the industrial areas of Neveh Dekalim, Morag and Gadid. For the most part, however, yesterday's confrontations were between the Palestinians and IDF soldiers, not civilians.

In Nissanit, near the Erez Junction, people living at the edge of the settlement were moved further inward, and a number of women and children were evacuated to Ashkelon, because of the shooting that

could be heard in the settlement throughout the day.

By nightfall, relative quiet had returned to the area, except for occasional bursts of fire.

A steady stream of ambulances, both civilian and military, crossed through the Kissufim Junction in the afternoon. All other civilian traffic was stopped at the site. Dozens of Gush Katif residents whose families remained inside the settlements, were prevented from going back to their homes until nightfall. The IDF organized convoys of buses to take the people home.

"There was never a day like this during the intifada," said Shlomo Lasri, a Neveh Dekalim resident, who was stopped at the junction after returning from work at about 3 p.m. "I have been here since 1975 and I never remember anything like this. This is our nightmare, this is what we were all afraid would happen. It was all just a matter of time."

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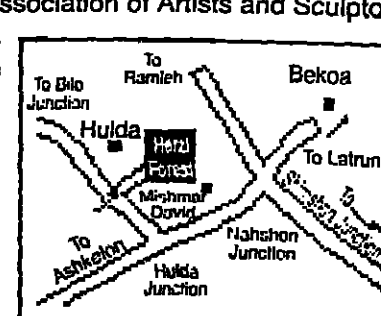
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Yesterday's drawing

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were: the ace of spades, the ten of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the eight of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 28, 36, 37, 43, 45, and 49, and the additional number was 10.

In yesterday's Paysis Hazak drawing, ticket number 003933 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 104657 was good for a car.

Tickets numbered 623168, 074409, 261591, 652729, 826391, 211907, 803884, 789324 were good for NIS 5,000, while tickets ending in 90916, 69103, 07280, 03598, 55699, 58921, 63000, 82142, 61041, 31509, 57925, 26589, 83858, 12355, 26700, 50824, 35145, 34856, and 89730 all were good for NIS 1,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 143, 498, 599 and 300 won NIS 100, in 99, 51, 54, or 09 NIS 30, in 42 and 98 NIS 20 and in 4 or 9 NIS 10.

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The Ramallah battlefield

IN Ramallah, where the shooting started on Wednesday, Palestinian policemen exchanged fire with IDF soldiers yesterday, shooting from the hills, the streets, from apartment buildings, and from rooftops. Seven Palestinians were reported killed and four IDF soldiers were wounded.

The events of the past two days have unified the Palestinian street, as thousands of onlookers turned out to support those doing the actual shooting and rock-throwing.

In Ramallah, they edged closer and closer to the checkpoints where the bullets were flying, then fled when the return fire sounded too close.

Firing seemed to be at random. Police in smart uniforms and gunmen in jeans and sneakers, possibly belonging to the Preventive Security Service, a home for former Fatah gunmen, knelt in the middle of crowds and fired toward houses from which shots had been fired.

They suspected that the IDF had had taken up positions in the town and soldiers were moving from house to house. But the shots were more likely to have come from other Palestinians shooting in the general direction of the checkpoints.

Rooftop solar heaters, punctured by gunfire, unleashed geysers of steaming hot water into the sky.

JON IMMANUEL

There were reports that settlers were shooting from the hilltop villas around the town, but when some of these gunmen were hit, Palestinian ambulances raced up the hill to collect the casualties.

"I saw a Palestinian youth killed right here yesterday," said Rasmiye Yusef, referring to one of the four killed in Ramallah on Wednesday. "The Israelis are planning a massacre. That is my opinion and that of the whole world."

She admitted she never had faith in the peace process.

Even those who supported the peace process saw the current armed clashes as an act of self-defense.

"I want peace, I supported peace, but not this kind of peace," said Eymen Khader, who had come up from Bethlehem and was covering behind a wall.

Yesterday was a strike day and day of mourning. Some demonstrators went straight from the funerals to take part in the renewed confrontations. Fatah, Hamas, Popular Front, and Democratic Front personalities appeared on the streets, enjoying a new feeling of unity and relief after months of frustration.

Ali Abu Hilal, a DFLP

spokesman, and Riyad Malki, a former PFLP spokesman, spoke of the events with satisfaction. "It reminds me exactly of the first days of the intifada," said Malki. "Obviously it's not going to stop until the Israelis show a commitment to implement their part of the agreement."

The Palestinian Council was to have met in Ramallah yesterday to discuss the opening of the tunnel exit which sparked the conflagration, but did not convene because access to the city was difficult. Troops blocked both north and south entrances to the town, with jeeps mounting machine guns. Two Cobra helicopter gunships hovered over the scene for hours. Later, two tanks were brought to the area as an extra precaution.

Council member Marwan Barghout, the West Bank Fatah chief and a supporter of the Oslo accords, tried to clear onlookers from the area of the shooting.

He placed the sole blame for the violence on the IDF, despite shooting from the Palestinian side.

"I don't think anybody is giving instructions to the police to shoot, and the police who are shooting I think are firing in the air. The Israelis are shooting at us and they have to stop it," Barghout said.



A soldier wounded in Gaza arrives at Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer yesterday. (Israel Sun/Dan Starman)

IDF suffers 44 wounded

Two civilians also hurt

JUDY SIEGEL and Ilim

FORTY-four IDF soldiers and two Israeli civilians were wounded during the course of yesterday's rioting.

Fourteen soldiers wounded in Ramallah and Bethlehem were hospitalized yesterday in Jerusalem hospitals.

Six soldiers were hospitalized in Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, four in serious condition and undergoing operations, and the other two in satisfactory condition. All were suffering from bullet wounds.

Another seven were being treated at Hadassah-University Hospital, Mt. Scopus. They were also wounded in the shooting, and their wounds were described as light to moderate. One soldier was in Shaare Zedek Hospital with light to moderate wounds.

Fourteen soldiers were admitted to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital, three in critical condition. Thirteen soldiers were in Sheba

Hospital in Tel Hashomer, five of them in critical condition.

Three soldiers and two civilians, including Channel 2 reporter Yossi Ein-Dor and a cameraman, were wounded in the fighting in Gaza, were brought to Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital. One soldier was in critical condition.

Magen David Adom, already suffering from a blood shortage, last night called on the public to donate blood. The organization especially needs Type O and RH negative blood, but will gladly accept any type.

MDA stations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa and the central blood bank at Tel Hashomer will be open today between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and tomorrow from 7 p.m. to midnight. Every donor will receive blood insurance for himself and his immediate family for a year.

Details about reception hours at other MDA stations can be obtained by calling 177-022-5911.

Families of wounded endure hours of watchful waiting

THE atmosphere at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Medical Center was eerily quiet as the families of 13 people wounded in yesterday's clashes waited for their loved ones to recover from operations.

Unlike hospital areas after terror attacks, where relatives often deliver political speeches, the families of the 12 soldiers and one TV photographer waited sadly, tears in their eyes.

There was a tense, post-battle atmosphere of disbelief with the families and friends of the

wounded being comforted by nurses, doctors, IDF and Border Police social workers and psychologists.

"If there's anything we can do...if you need us to put you up for the night at a hotel, don't hesitate to call me. We're here for you," a Border Police social worker told the family of Insp. Mike Raz, who had been hit by a bullet in the waist.

His mother Natella sat sobbing. A nurse came over and led her into the recovery room to reassure her that her son or daughter

members said "is a born Border Police fighter," was going to be all right.

Raz had phoned his wife, Maya, from one of the six helicopters which evacuated the wounded to the hospital from the Gaza Strip area. Raz's brother

RAINE MARCUS

Benny Dazvashvili said when he heard the news about his brother he "trembled all over."

"I didn't know what to do. I felt helpless," he said as he drank juice poured by hospital volun-

teers.

"We give the Palestinian Police weapons and they shoot us with them," said Raz's brother-in-law, Danny Michaeli, a kiosk owner. "But the hospital staff here and the army officers are wonderful, they don't leave us alone, contin-

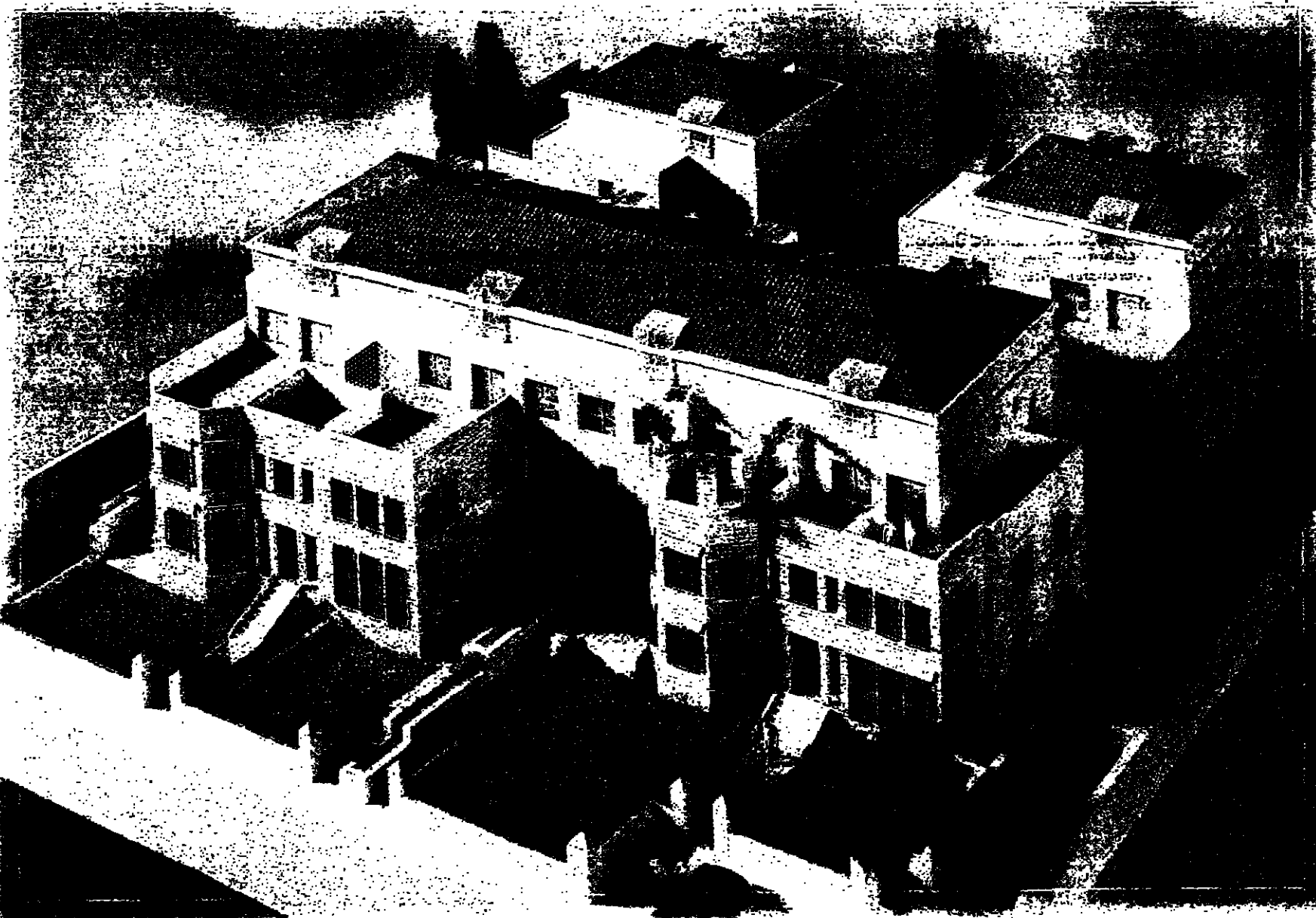
ually reassuring us and asking us if we need anything."

A total of 14 wounded were brought to the hospital yesterday. One IDF officer died on arrival from a gunshot wound to his head. Channel 2 cinematographer Haim Assess was shot twice in the

hand and abdomen as he was filming the shootings at the Erez checkpoint and was in serious but stable condition last night.

"Two soldiers were brought here from Jenin, the rest from the Gaza Strip area," said hospital (Continued on Page 20)

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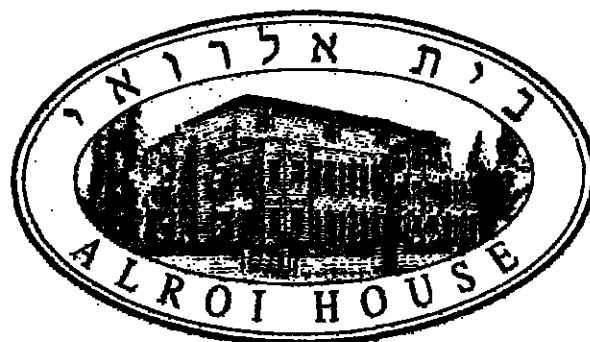
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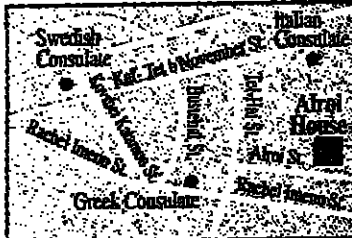
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Clinton indirectly blames Israel for riots

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton yesterday called on Israel and the Palestinian Authority to defuse the tension in the territories and resume final-status negotiations.

At the same time, he indirectly accused Israel of instigating the riots by opening an exit to the Hasmonean Tunnel, saying both sides should refrain from needless provocation.

"I'd like to just repeat what I have said consistently: I think that all the parties should avoid any actions which are likely to undermine the progress of the peace," Clinton told reporters, as he left the White House to meet with Democrats on Capitol Hill.

"Now the important thing is to end the violence and to get back to implementing those peace agreements."

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

Asked whether Israel should re-seal the tunnel, Clinton said: "All I can tell you today is I hope that everyone will heed our position, which is to do nothing that will provoke a disruption and instead to get back to the talks and to the business of resolving their differences."

Clinton said he had not yet spoken directly with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu but might do so later in the day. He added that Netanyahu's decision to cut short his European trip to deal with the tension was "a very good thing for him to do."

"I deeply regret the injuries and the loss of life we've seen on the West Bank and Gaza in

the last few days," Clinton said. "It points to the urgency for both sides not only to end the violence but to take positive steps to resolve the issues that divide them."

He added that the riots "stand out precisely" because of progress toward Israeli-Palestinian peace in recent years.

The US peace process team, led by special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, was in contact with both Israeli and Palestinian leaders in a bid to bring the fighting under control.

Clinton said he is not weighing sending the team to the region, but would consider such a step in consultation with Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Hussein calls for international committee to decide on tunnel

KING Hussein said yesterday "the impossible" had to be done to halt two days of bloody clashes between Palestinians and IDF soldiers.

"We have to do the impossible to calm matters to stop them from worsening," the state-run news agency Petra quoted him as saying at the airport, after returning from Qatar.

Earlier in the day, he said Israel must be stopped from continuing work on the Hasmonean Tunnel in Jerusalem and an international committee should be set up to deal with the issue.

"In my opinion an international committee should be formed to discuss what happened and how it happened at Al-Aksa Mosque," he told a news conference in the Qatari capital Doha, after talks with the Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani.

BATSHEVA TSUR
and news agencies

"This committee should consist of representatives of all international organizations... Israel must be stopped from going ahead with the tunnel," he added. "Jerusalem may be a symbol of peace."

"I believe there is still hope for peace. Everyone has suffered so much. It will be a disaster for all of us if we move away from the peace process," King Hussein added.

The official Qatari news agency had earlier said that King Hussein and Qatar's emir condemned Israel's opening of the tunnel and held it responsible for the clashes.

It said the two leaders said the tunnel was "a violation of the sanctity of the holy city and a

provocation of the Arab and Muslim feelings and contradicts the principles of the peace accord."

But Hussein did not express any criticism of the Israeli position to President Ezer Weizman, when the latter telephoned Hussein in the afternoon after receiving a cable from him, Beit Hanassi director Arye Shumer said.

He described the conversation between the two as friendly and said both leaders agreed to work towards cooling the atmosphere.

Earlier, Weizman met for half an hour with Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, at the ambassador's request. Weizman expressed the hope that quiet would return to the region. No message was received at Beit Hanassi from the Egyptian president, Shumer said.



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, disembark from the Israel Air Force Boeing 707 which returned them from their curtailed European trip yesterday. Netanyahu headed directly to emergency meetings in Jerusalem. (Dana Stern/Israel Sun)

Kohl expresses concern; Chirac calls Arafat to express 'solidarity'

BONN - German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of his "deep concern" at the faltering Middle East peace process yesterday, as Netanyahu cut short a visit to Bonn to face the mounting crisis at home.

"In the current situation, everything must be done, in cooperation with (Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat) to prevent an escalation on both sides," a government statement quoted Kohl as telling Netanyahu in a 90-minute meeting.

"[Kohl] emphatically encouraged Netanyahu to continue his dialogue with the Palestinian side with determination, on the basis of the agreements that have been concluded," the statement added.

The German government, normally at pains to stress its good relations with Israel, indicated on Wednesday that its support for Israel depended on continued efforts to push ahead with the peace process.

Helmut Schaefer, state secretary in the Foreign Ministry, told German Radio that Bonn was worried about Netanyahu's failure to fulfill agreements signed with the Palestinians, and feared that progress toward peace might be sacrificed.

At Bergen-Belsen, Netanyahu laid wreaths

to victims of the Holocaust at the memorial, and said kaddish.

France yesterday pressed Israel to take measures to defuse widening violence in the territories, and President Jacques Chirac called Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to express his support.

In a 20-minute conversation Chirac called Arafat "to tell him of France's solidarity and support after the very grave incidents," the president's Elysee Palace said in a statement.

Chirac also discussed his meeting in Paris a day earlier with Netanyahu.

While the French president had expressed his friendship to Israel Wednesday, he noted "the necessity for the de-escalation of violence, the reduction of tension and the resumption of discussions on autonomy" for the Palestinians, Elysee said.

A senior Israeli official said Wednesday that Netanyahu had asked Chirac to use his Arab ties to try to calm the tensions.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette also spoke with Arafat and called for urgent action to end the violence.

"It's up to us also, but especially for the

Israelis, to take the initiatives" to lower the tensions, he said in an interview with France Inter radio.

While Netanyahu has expressed willingness to push ahead with the peace process, "it's not enough to make statements," Foreign Ministry spokesman Yves Doutriaux told a daily briefing.

"The peace process must resume and that's the sense of our call today," he said.

Russia, meanwhile, blamed "unilateral" Israeli actions for violence with Palestinians but condemned "excesses" on both sides. It also said it was trying to help reopen peace negotiations.

"The fact that the Israeli authorities, in a unilateral fashion, opened a tunnel next to a Muslim holy site...provoked a spontaneous protest by the Palestinian population," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a news briefing. "We express our deep regret over these excesses."

"Russia urgently calls on the interested parties to refrain from actions leading to a further deterioration in the situation," the spokesman added. "For this, it is essential that previous agreements be strictly observed."

Arab League hails new 'intifada'

CAIRO (Reuters) - Arab states yesterday hailed what they called "the intifada of the Palestinian people" and said the tunnel Israel opened in Jerusalem was part of a plot to destroy Al-Aksa mosque.

It was the first time in at least three years that the Arab League had used the word intifada.

A statement issued after an Arab League meeting in Cairo, called by the Palestinians, said: "The Council of the League hails the intifada of the Palestinian people, with the participation of its leaders, in intrepidly confronting Israeli repressive practices."

The meeting, at the level of permanent delegates from the league's 22 members, said Israeli attempts to Judaize Jerusalem were a clear violation of Palestinian-Israeli agreements.

"These violations empty the peace process of content and the Israeli government alone bears responsibility for the serious consequences which will ensue," it added.

"The council...considers what is happening to be part of an Israeli Zionist plot to destroy the Al-Aksa mosque, set up the Temple of Solomon, obliterate Islamic Arab landmarks and create more facts which harm the legal status of Jerusalem," it added.

It called for urgent intervention to restrain Israel by the UN Security Council and by sponsors of the Middle East peace process - the United States and Russia.

US Jewish leaders concerned about threat to peace process

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

AMERICAN Jewish leaders yesterday feared the return of the intifada and the demise of the peace process, bemoaned anarchy among the Palestinians, and expressed misgivings about Israel's timing in opening the Hasmonean Tunnel.

Although most of those contacted stressed that they did not have all the facts, many said the timing of the tunnel's opening was unfortunate and potentially provocative. Others said the tension in the area has risen to such an extent that any event could have been inflammatory.

However, "there is no justification for the violent and menacing eruptions," the Anti-Defamation League said in a statement. "While the Palestinians have a right to demonstrate, once Palestinian protesters began throwing stones and the Palestinian Police ominously initiated the use of live ammunition, the line between demonstration and violent upris-

ing was crossed." "This is a test of the Palestinian Authority to control the tinderbox that exists in the territories," said Leon Levy, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

There was disagreement on what the violence meant for the peace process. Some called for the talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to commence immediately, while others said the talks should be halted.

The clashes also appeared to challenge some leaders to rethink their positions. "If the Palestinian Police cannot control what they have, how can we turn over what's left?" asked one Jewish leader, who asked not to be identified.

There was broad support for the tunnel as an archeological treasure and a boon to tourism, but many expressed chagrin at the timing of its opening.

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סקרן מן האוכל

Mordechai: We are in a state of emergency

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai imposed a state of emergency in the territories yesterday, and blasted the commanders of the Palestinian Police for not exerting control over their armed men.

"Some of them are working with us. Others are shooting at us, and some are not under control of the Palestinian Authority. We are entering a dangerous situation," Mordechai said.

"We have declared a state of emergency in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza from this morning. There is shooting by the Palestinian Police and all sorts of Palestinians holding weapons on IDF soldiers."

Mordechai spoke to reporters at Central Command headquarters after a 90-minute briefing with the army's top commanders. During the meeting, it was decided to take all the necessary steps to protect

entered Palestinian controlled areas.

"We have no intention of entering Arab cities. We have declared closures and curfews in area C and we are isolating the other areas. We are trying to reduce the shooting to the minimum. Our forces are reinforced. In some areas, they also received tanks and attack helicopters. We are taking steps which are needed in this emergency situation."

Mordechai denied Israel was taken by surprise by the intensity of the situation. But he said he was disappointed with the PA for not being able to control its forces.

"We were sure [Wednesday night] that the PA would do its best to stop the violence. Unfortunately, the shooting didn't stop and is continuing even now. Therefore, we must carry on our mission to secure our troops and citizens in the area," Mordechai said.

Arafat told me he is doing his utmost to separate the forces and prevent more injuries. This is happening in some areas, and in other areas I presume there is no control."

He denied that IDF troops had

DEFEAT...
...solidarity



A Palestinian policeman aims at IDF troops, as other Palestinians take cover from incoming fire during clashes in Ramallah yesterday. (Khaled Zighari)

Palestinians have 80,000 armed fighters, defense sources say

Intelligence taken aback by breakdown of PA police command

ISRAELI intelligence sources have sharply revised their assessments of Palestinian military strength, amid the bloody confrontation between the IDF and Palestinian forces over the past two days.

Israeli defense sources now say they must contend with at least 80,000 Palestinian fighters with automatic weapons. This includes about 30,000 Palestinian Police officers, up to nine security services and thousands of fighters from Fatah and other organizations who possess Kalashnikov and other weapons.

Previous IDF estimates had pointed to about 50,000 Palestinians, including the police force, with access to firearms.

The Palestinians, the sources said, have not used anything other than automatic weapons and grenades. For example, the Palestinian Authority has 45 armored personnel carriers donated by Russia, but at this point they have remained in their bases.

Intelligence sources insisted they were not taken aback by the initial riots and the involvement of Palestinian police, something that

some of them assert they had warned against for the last few months. They said the first riots in Jerusalem on Wednesday morning were not organized by the PA.

However, they were surprised by the intensity of the riots and the breakdown in the command of the Palestinian Police. The assessments of the General Security Service and IDF intelligence had been that the PA would be unable to organize massive demonstrations against Israel.

Palestinian security sources said that the Force 17 stationed in Ramallah was ordered on Wednesday not to fire on Israeli troops. But Palestinian demonstrators, organized by Hamas activists, began to call the Force 17 men traitors and some of them then decided to fire on IDF soldiers.

At that point, the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security, Col. Jibril Rajoub, tried to stop the shooting and prevent ammunition from arriving at the scene of the riot. But civil-

ians rushed with bullets they had bought on the black market to supply the Palestinian gunmen.

Western sources close to Arafat acknowledged that the PA chief has been playing what they termed a "double game." He ordered senior commanders to talk to their Israeli counterparts in the IDF and sent his trusted security advisers to Ramallah to report on the battles. But he refused to give any orders that would stop the fighting.

At the same time, Palestinian television, which is closely supervised by Arafat, urged Palestinians to leave their homes and fight Israeli forces.

Moreover, Western sources who met with Palestinian security officials hours after the rioting began quoted them as saying that the attacks would become bloody and that Hamas and Islamic Jihad would join in. They also raised the possibility that the current fighting would allow Hamas and Jihad terrorists the opportunity to sneak into Israel and carry out attacks.

Dayan intends to use force to bring stability

ISRAELI intends to use force to bring about stability in Judea and Samaria, and will gradually tighten the isolation of Palestinian cities until law and order is restored, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said yesterday.

He said that all forces under his command are being deployed throughout the territories to enforce the closure declared on the Palestinian cities and other areas where clashes with Israeli troops erupted. He said the forces are also being used to protect Jewish settlements and the roads leading to them.

"The intention is to stabilize, with force if necessary, the situation, with a policy of restraint in areas where it is possible, isolation in areas of friction, and using force anywhere there is a security threat or

Israeli interests are harmed," Dayan said.

"This is an emergency situation. Soldiers are returning fire wherever they are being shot at, and using all the force needed."

"In this situation, our mission is first of all the defense of Israelis under our control, and imposing law and order in the area of the Central Command."

Dayan said the question of what levels instructed or allowed Palestinian forces to turn their weapons on Israelis would have to be answered later.

"For the moment, we are not holding back on force in areas where there is no alternative, where there is a security threat or our vital interests are being harmed," Dayan said.

Arieh O'Sullivan

...solidarity

Israeli Arab leaders call general strike

ISRAELI Arab leaders have called for a general strike of the entire 900,000-strong community today in protest over the situation in the territories.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the forum of Arab Council Heads in Shfaram, in the Galilee, yesterday, during ongoing fighting in the West Bank and Gaza.

It was also agreed that protest marches over the government's policies and the bloodletting in the territories will be held in towns and villages throughout the country after Friday prayers.

The Arab leaders called on the public to show restraint through-

out the general strike and the protest marches. Council officials in towns and villages throughout the country will monitor the local situation and try to prevent any disturbances.

A member of the forum said feelings were running high in the Arab sector, but he was hopeful that residents would heed the call and the general strike would pass peacefully. In the past, violence in the territories has spilled over onto the streets in the Israeli Arab sector and led to riots.

Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum, also expressed the

hope that the strike would pass without any disturbances, despite the feelings of anguish and bitterness in the Arab sector over events leading up to the fighting in the territories.

"We call on the government to fulfill the Oslo agreements, otherwise all the region could explode into something even worse," said Suleiman, who is also head of Mash'had local council near Nazareth.

"I am afraid that if these agreements are not fulfilled the situation will become even worse than the intifada and with it, heighten the risk of war in the Middle East generally," said Suleiman.

Riots are eye opener, say MKs

LIAT COLLINS

POLITICIANS in the center and on the right of the political spectrum reacted to yesterday's riots by saying they should act as an eye opener for future talks, particularly since Palestinian policemen used weapons against IDF soldiers.

"It's lucky in a way that it happened now at a stage when we can learn from what's going on and be more cautious in the future," coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan said. "We learn from this that every time the Arabs are unhappy about something, they will find an excuse to use to try to get what they want. This time the pretext is the tunnel. There will always be new demands, first Jerusalem and later Galilee."

"I trust the government and armed forces will do everything possible to stop the bloodshed and reach a stage during which we can talk instead of shoot."

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for immediately leaving for a visit abroad after opening the exit to the Hasmonian Tunnel. He said Netanyahu should have expected rioting to follow.

"We're acting like idiots," he said. "Palestinian policemen are shooting at us with weapons we gave them, and to calm them we don't let Jews go to Rachel's Tomb or Joseph's Tomb, which is like a reward. The obvious thing to do would be to disarm at least the police in Ramallah, who have not been able to exercise control over the use of weapons."

He suggested giving the Palestinian Police pistols, rather

Labor blames Likud for bloodshed

SARAH HONIG

THE Labor Party yesterday demanded a special Knesset session to discuss the bloodshed, blaming the Netanyahu government for the disturbances.

The Likud responded by saying that Labor was siding with those who incite against Israel and seek to pressure it into more concessions under the threat of violence.

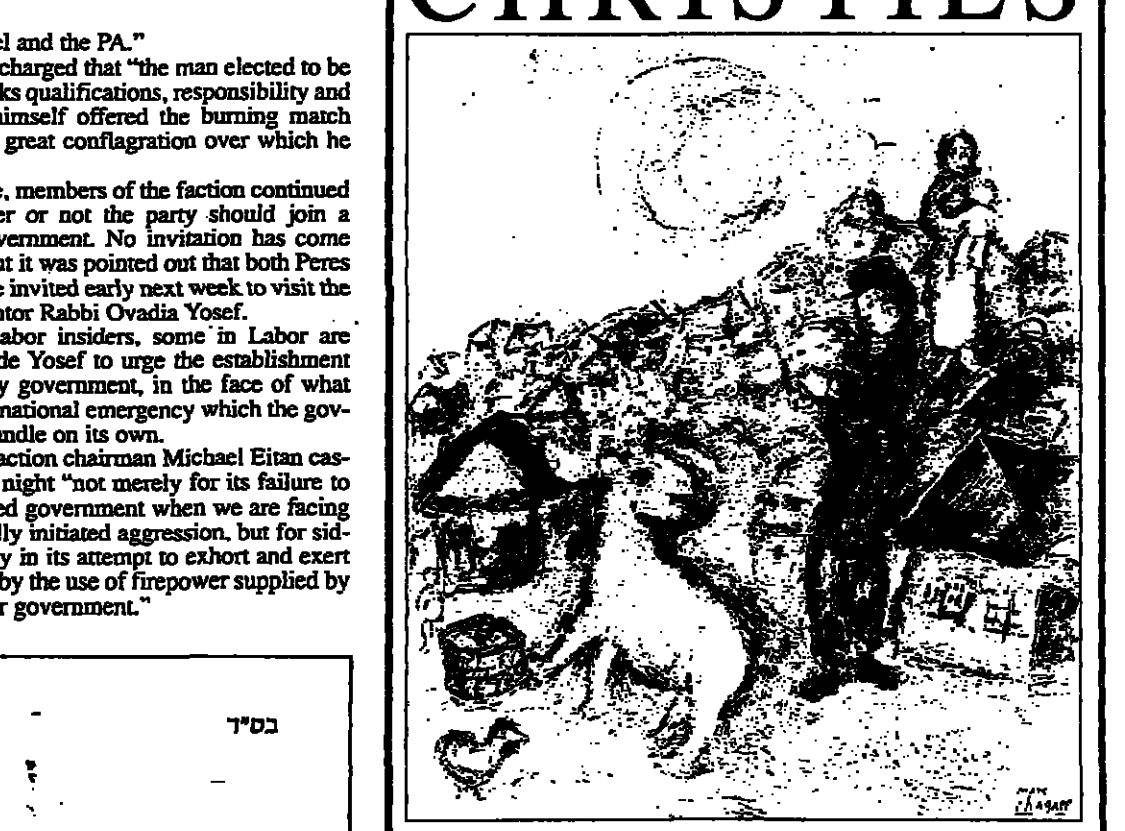
The Labor Knesset faction met yesterday in what was called "emergency session." Though there was some concern that the party might appear unpatriotic and siding with the enemy in time of battle, Labor leader Shimon Peres said, "We will not identify with any moves which were made without consulting with us first."

Peres warned that without strict adherence to the Oslo agreements there would be no peace process. He maintained that "no promise [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu made had thus far stood the test of reality."

"We are facing a far more severe version of an intifada," he added.

MK Ephraim Sneh said "the peace process no longer exists. At best it is lying on the road bleeding to death. What we have now is a military confronta-

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No surrender to violence

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took the correct line when he told PLO chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday morning that no progress in the negotiations would be possible as long as the Palestinian rampage in the territories continues. While sticking to this position may not be easy in the face of mounting international pressure, the prime minister must do so if he does not want another mini-war every time he fails to capitulate fully to the PLO's demands.

Events have gone far beyond the type of minor incident it is possible to overlook. Palestinian civilians attacked Israeli settlements and army positions throughout the territories yesterday with both rocks and live fire.

Worst of all, the Palestinian Police, rather than trying to calm the situation, were frequently in the forefront of the attacking Palestinians. The result has been a mounting toll of both Israeli and Palestinian dead.

Furthermore, though Arafat promised to try to calm the situation, senior Palestinian Authority officials openly admit that it was Arafat who encouraged the rioting in the first place. After a meeting Wednesday morning of the PLO Executive Committee and the PA cabinet, Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi told reporters that Arafat and the cabinet had given the go-ahead for "escalation by all means" in the territories. This, like the involvement of the Palestinian Police, is not something Israel can let pass.

Prior to the elections, Netanyahu repeatedly said the proper response to such behavior was to call a complete halt to the talks. If Israel agrees to negotiate under gunfire, he said, the lesson the Palestinians will learn is that violence does pay.

Netanyahu was right then, and this theory still holds true today.

This is especially so because the opening of an exit to the Hasmonaean Tunnel is an issue of virtually unparalleled trivialeity. Since the tunnel has been open for years already, it changes the balance of power in Jerusalem not at all. Furthermore, it is something to which the Palestinians agreed, in exchange for the right to pray in Solomon's Stables – a bargain, incidentally, which Israel has kept faithfully, to the point of defending the Wakf's illegal building in Solomon's Stables to the High Court of Justice earlier this week.

If Arafat is prepared to set the territories on fire over this, one can only imagine the bloodshed that would ensue if Israel refused the PA something major, such as eastern Jerusalem – unless he is convinced now that violence will merely harden Israel's position, and is therefore unproductive.

From this perspective, Netanyahu's initial assurance to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday morning, that the steering committee on Hebron will meet as soon as possible, was a mistake, and it is to be hoped that the prime minister will reconsider this. The government's position must be that there will be no movement whatsoever on the negotiations while Israelis are being killed.

The suggestion that the IDF withdraw now from Joseph's Tomb in response to the violence, however, is worse than a mistake: It would be the clearest possible proof that violence does pay. It is therefore to be hoped that the cabinet will reject it.

The widespread international expressions of "understanding" for the Palestinians' behavior are also, to put it charitably, counterproductive. That the Arab world has expressed unqualified support for the rioting is hardly surprising. But the West's failure to unequivocally condemn this behavior is incomprehensible. It is one thing for the West to express its disapproval of the opening of the tunnel exit, but quite another to imply, even by omission, that this justifies days of rioting leading to dozens of deaths and hundreds of injuries. Due to the PA's desperate need for Western financial assistance, the disapproval of the US and Europe would be a powerful incentive for the PA to restrain the violence. Instead, the industrialized world has given the violence its tacit approval – which can only encourage the PA to continue using this tactic.

Even more distressing is the irresponsible behavior of the Israeli opposition. Labor, as the father of the Oslo Accords, should have been the first to denounce such widespread Palestinian violence. A peace agreement capable of dissolving into violence at such a petty provocation is clearly not worth the paper it is printed on; only if Arafat can be convinced that this behavior is unacceptable do the agreements have a chance of succeeding. Instead of making this clear to Arafat, however, Labor leader Shimon Peres and most Labor MKs have cynically decided to reap political capital out of the rioting by saying the violence is not the Palestinians' fault but the Likud's. Not only is this absurd on the face of it – it is not the Likud which began storming settlements with rocks and guns yesterday morning – but it simply encourages the violence by increasing Arafat's hopes that it will achieve his goals.

It is, of course, possible that Arafat is no longer able to control what he started, though this seems less likely. As Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said, the attacks were so widespread and well-timed that they were "certainly not spontaneous, but initiated."

But if Arafat is indeed unable to stop the rioting, this raises even more questions about the value of the peace process. The theory behind the Oslo Accords was that if Arafat were given enough money and a strong enough police force, he would be able to control his people and protect Israeli lives. If instead he is using this power to set the territories on fire, that is an excellent reason not to give him even more power – which is something both the government and the world must make him understand.

If, however, he is simply unable to control the 40,000-strong army Israel has provided him with, that is an equally good reason for Israel to call for a time-out. Hizbullah has given Israel ample experience of the havoc that can be wreaked by a powerful militia which answers to no government. The events of the past two days show that the PA Police are more than capable of creating equal havoc if left unchecked.

Egypt's part in the flare-up

WHAT'S the difference between cold peace and warm peace?

When Jordan's King Hussein wants to find out how the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are going, he sends a helicopter to Jerusalem to pick up Netanyahu aide Dore Gold and fly him to Amman.

But when things aren't moving along fast enough to please Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, he sends his foreign minister and two other aides to malign Binyamin Netanyahu and deprecate Israel generally.

Thus Amr Moussa felt quite free this week to warn our government that it has only a few weeks left to evacuate Hebron, end the closure of the territories, redeploy in Judea and Samaria and begin negotiating with Syria.

Both Hussein and Mubarak have condemned Israel for the opening this week of the Hasmonaean Tunnel in Jerusalem, but in very different styles, each embodying a totally different view of how far an Arab leader feels he can become involved in the effort to build a new Israeli-Palestine relationship.

A little history is apposite here. The British government's request to Arab leaders that they intervene to stop the riots during the mass Palestinian strike in 1936 (a request that originated, according to Orientalist Eli Kadourie, in a clerical error at the Colonial Office) paved the way for those leaders' participation in the round-table conferences initiated by Britain in 1938 and 1946 to impose a pro-Arab solution on the Palestine conflict. Worse, the request was used to justify the 1948 Arab invasion "to protect the Palestinian population."

Sixty years on, the Netanyahu government is repeating the mistake of encouraging Arab involvement that will only rebound on Israel.

And Egypt, having acquired a taste for this role, wants to hurry things up by applying one-sided pressure – on Israel.

In talking to Mubarak Netanyahu didn't just give the president a general overview of the diplomatic process with Syria and the Palestinians; he left him with the impression that he had been appointed mediator, and that

After his election, Netanyahu was quick to invite Mubarak to play an active role in advancing the diplomatic process with the Palestinians and with Syria.

Now Egypt, for reasons of Arab solidarity, is fully entitled to take an interest in the way such negotiations proceed. After all, non-Arab countries take an interest too. But Netanyahu's inviting

The slander campaign launched by Mubarak's foreign ministry fueled the fire that blazed in the territories this week

Mubarak to take a mediating role in Israel-Palestinian and Israeli-Syrian negotiations lies at the root of the current crisis in our relations with Egypt. Simply, Israel has placed on Egypt a burden it cannot shoulder.

There's no way Egypt can be a mediator. As an Arab country with ambitions to lead the Arab world, Egypt feels obligated to support the Palestinians and the Syrians. And it wants to show the Arabs that concern for their Palestinian brethren will push it to go as far as verbal confrontation with Israel, even an attempt to twist Israel's arm.

Back in 1975 in the Sinai agreement Yitzhak Rabin laid down the principle that any settlement with an Arab country has to stand on its own two feet, without being influenced by Israel's relations with other Arab countries. But the Oslo 2 agreement with the Palestinians, initiated in 1995 in Taba under Egyptian auspices, departed from this sound basis, turning the Egyptians into partners in any Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

his dictates would eventually be accepted. This illusion soon gave way to reality, engendering frustration, which turned into anger and led to the verbal onslaught on Israel.

The Egyptian slander campaign, in fact, was no less of a contributing factor to the flare-up in Ramallah and Bethlehem and elsewhere than this week's opening of the Hasmonaean Tunnel.

ARAB RULERS – even King Hussein – joined ranks with the Palestinian Authority this week, the tunnel affair linking them in a demonstration of solidarity.

Hussein had every reason to be unhappy over Israel's failure to preserve his superior status in Jerusalem as per the Israel-Jordan peace treaty.

The king invested more than \$8m. in refurbishing the Dome of the Rock, and all he received in return was a plaque acknowledging his contribution. And even that was removed last week by Palestinian youths opposed to Jordan's privileged status regard-

ing Jerusalem's Islamic holy places.

From Orient House to the Hasmonaean Tunnel Hussein has closely followed the struggle between the Israeli authorities and the PA in Jerusalem. And he wants to know: Can Israel deliver on its promise to grant Jordan preferred status regarding the holy places?

Meanwhile the fact that in Israel-controlled territory Ibril Rajoub can throw out the mufti Hussein appointed and replace that mufti with an Arafat appointee worries the king; and the removal of his plaque on the Dome of Rock hasn't escaped his attention.

While the restoration was taking place, Egypt lobbied Israel to accept a proposed Saudi contribution to the cost of the dome's golden covering. But Israel preferred the Jordanian connection, and the king is relying on Israel to go on looking after his interests.

The Palestinians claim (erroneously) that the Oslo accords forbid any change in Jerusalem until the final status of the city is agreed; yet at the same time they are trying to prise Hussein loose from any influence he has over Jerusalem's Islamic holy places.

As always, Hussein won't break Arab ranks. He is joining Arab declarations in favor of the PA's stand that the Hasmonaean Tunnel must be closed.

But any Israeli deal with the PA over the tunnel – which the Palestinians claim harms a holy Islamic site – detracts from the special status in this regard accorded to Jordan in our peace treaty with that country.

The Jordanian monarch needs convincing that Israel is sovereign over all Jerusalem, and that it is able to keep its promises to Jordan.

The writer is a veteran journalist.

Let's give Middle Israel its voice

IN spring 1967, an Israel far more besieged, perplexed and demoralized than the current one was led by a hastily-assembled national unity government to one of history's most remarkable military victories.

During numerous moments of national angst in subsequent years – and in light of the 1985 broad coalition's impressive defeat of hyperinflation – the national unity formula became a near-panacea to many Israelis.

Was this week's example of tunnel vision a critical moment? Clearly it was. And is that old political option still out there? Politically speaking, it isn't.

But does the time-honored consensus that has worked so well in the past to break deadlock still exist? It certainly does.

And the sooner Natan Sharansky and Avigdor Kahalani – the two men destined to unearth Middle Israel – realize the full scope of the opportunity that has fallen into their laps, the better our chances will be of restoring regional sanity, cultural harmony and economic order to an increasingly chaotic landscape.

The gravity of the moment hardly needs elaboration.

This week's bloody events threaten to rip apart those delicate cooperation mechanisms which, saved from ill-conceived provocation and allowed to mature quietly, could help generate Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation.

No less grimly, the chain of events that culminated in this mayhem looms ominously as a reminder that Binyamin Netanyahu assumed office nakedly devoid of contingency plans and oblivious to the Middle-Israeli inclinations that helped bring him to power.

The original sin behind the unrest was not the opening of the Hasmonaean Tunnel! but Netanyahu's foolishly delayed meeting with Yasser Arafat and the failure to quickly carry out the Hebron arrangement.

All this would have been avoided had Netanyahu immediately understood that his election, while reflecting widespread disenchant-

ment with some of his predecessors' policies, was by no means a license for machismo games.

Had Middle Israel wanted to destroy – rather than improve – on what Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres had achieved, it would have voted en masse for the National Religious Party or Moledet. Conversely, had Middle Israel thought too little had been con-

“Let's-give-em-everything-now” Sarid. Benny “We'll-never-give-em-anything” Begin, and Avraham “Get-me-Rehov Bar-Ilan” Ravitz.

STILL, a national unity government as we have previously known it isn't an imminent option.

Unlike the cabinets of the Six

stood up to the old establishment's systems of patronage.

Sharansky's blunt statement earlier this month in Hebron that concessions must be made was the voice of Middle Israel. Kahalani's insistence earlier that Netanyahu meet with Arafat was the voice of Middle Israel.

Sharansky's refusal to grant industrialists the easy-money subsidies they used to get from his predecessors is the voice of Middle Israel. And Kahalani's secular but humane attitude regarding the clashes over Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan was also the voice of Middle Israel.

Armed with their combined 12 Knesset seats, the stocky and balding Russian and Yemenite ought together in the near future to prevent Netanyahu from abandoning Middle Israel, as he has in his initial mistreatment of the PA. As regards the more distant future they would provide that long-overdue Archimedean leverage that would return our decision-making process to where it belongs, in the broad mainstream.

This country isn't as divided as its politicians make it seem. There is a broad consensus here: it simply needs dusting off.

Not because it is sacred and not because it has been etched in stone, but simply because it is what the vast majority of Israelis dearly want and sorely need.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the paper.

Sharansky and Kahalani together are the men to set the mechanism in motion

ceded, it would have voted Meretz.

But Middle Israel – i.e. the three out of four citizens who voted Labor, Likud, The Third Way and Yisrael Ba'alayah – opted for neither extreme.

We Middle Israelis may differ on whether a Greater Israel is desirable, but we agree it isn't viable; we may differ on whether Arafat passes for a freedom fighter, but we agree that dealing with him is inevitable. We may differ on the magnitude and character of Palestinian self-declaration, but we agree it is imperative; we may differ on the future of the Israeli presence beyond the Green Line, but we agree that some settlements should stay put, that others should relocate and that all settlers should be treated with respect.

On the cultural front, we of the Middle abhor the sight of the haredi fringe of society attempting to impose their will on us by force no less than we despise the sound of Shulamit Aloni besmirching biblical figures and inciting against rabbis.

On the economic front, Middle Israel would like to pay lower taxes, finance a smaller public sector and see the breakup of monopolies like Egged, El Al or the Electric Corporation.

In short, a broad Israeli consensus does exist, somewhere within that Bermuda Triangle of Yossi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CAR PARKING
Sir, – I have just returned from a month's exploratory stay in Israel prior to my intended emigration thence in as short a time as I can manage.

I have one problem only and that is negotiating my way around cars parked, not as here in England with two illegal wheels on the pavement, but with all four wheels, thus compelling one to walk on the road in the face of oncoming traffic. The first time it happened to me, I took a note of the car's number with the intention of notifying the police, but within hours, I found three cars nose to tail on the sidewalk, and everywhere I went, saw the same thing, with absolutely no room for movement on the sidewalk. Acute circulatory problems made walking there a risky process for me because I must move so slowly and at times am suddenly forced by pain to stop.

Just how do baby-carriage-pushing mothers get on in Israel? How do the almost-blind manage? Don't people in Israel care for anything beyond their cars? Isn't this a case for your minister for the environment to pursue?

S. MORRIS
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES
Sir, – Isn't it odd that, with the Supreme Court's policy of choosing justices on the basis of merit alone (“Curb these vigilantes,” Andrew M. Sacks, August 28), it works out that there is always one, and only one, religious justice. When he leaves, another religious representative of suitable “merit” is located.

L. BLASS
Jerusalem.

STAND FIRM
Sir, – As a staunch supporter of Peace Now and the peace process, even I was shocked and disturbed to read Joyce Boim's op-ed article of September 22. I was totally unaware of the fact the PA refuses to hand over killers to Israel to stand trial.

I would seem that this is not a right-wing issue. This is an issue of the fundamental support for the Oslo accords that Arafat and the PLO are supposed to demonstrate.

Unfortunately and tragically, Joyce Boim is right. It pains me to say that what happened to her as a parent could happen to any parent in Israel, unless and until the PA hands over the killers who murdered her son. In order to preserve the peace process, Israel must stand firm on this issue.

AVA GIDRON-AVIAD
Jerusalem.

DAIRY PRODUCTS
Sir, – One can only grope with dismay the announcement that the price of dairy products is to be increased once again.

Dairy products are a basic component of the food requirements of the people; their price has risen both considerably and frequently in the last few years without any apparent justification. However, the government allegedly desires to curtail our giddily spiraling inflation (the issuers of the statistics indicating a very low monthly inflation in the last report must be shopping on Mars!). Therefore, this latest increase is not acceptable and the man in the street should let his outrage be heard.

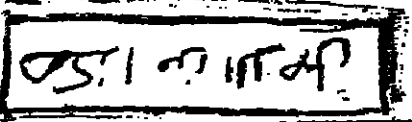
Does the dairy industry enjoy special *protektzia*?

HARRY FRIEDGUT
Netanya.

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS
Sir, – Apparently the American concept of political correctness has subtly become part of the agenda of Israel's political analysts. Esther Hertzog, an outspoken defender of women's rights, makes a strong statement in defense of the decision to prevent Ruti Nahmani's eggs – fertilized *in vitro* – from being destroyed (September 16). Ms. Hertzog states that “justice defeated hypocrisy and moral wrong” and referred to those who disagreed with the decision as “cowards.” She cites Justice Zvi Tal “whose adherence to a clear moral stand remained intact all along. In his hearing [which went against Ms. Nahmani], his was the sole voice of dissent in a panel of supposedly progressive judges.” She further praises legal commentator Moshe Negbi who supports this final decision and subsequently (*Ma'ariv*, September 20) accuses the dissenting judges of “cold reasoning that incorrectly overcame the warm sensitivity required of judges.”

Strangely, at no point in any of these analyses was it mentioned that Chief Justice Aharon Barak voted against Ms. Nahmani both in the original decision when he led the majority and in the appeal when he voted with the minority. That is, he was consistently on the side of the “cowards,” “supposedly progressive,” and insensitive. One can only wonder whether the fact that Justice Barak is perceived by these commentators as a leader in the struggle for secularization of Israel prevented them from mentioning his name while heaping scorn on his decision.

JAY SHAPIRO
Ginot Shomron.



Re-Juda

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Netanyahu
present
is a
government with

Re-Judaizing Jerusalem

GERALD M. STEINBERG

THE small war that followed the opening of the Hasmonean Tunnel along the ancient street in Jerusalem isn't surprising, but the lack of preparation on the Israeli side is.

The Palestinians were handed an ideal opportunity to inflict a major political defeat on Israel and the Netanyahu government.

In Jerusalem, which has always been the most sensitive dimension of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the issues have nothing to do with tourism or allegations of structural damage to buildings near the Temple Mount.

The violence is the combined result of three factors: frustration over the change of government in Israel, which halted the march toward a Palestinian state, arms and training received by the Palestinian military in preparation for such an opportunity, and the continuing battle for control of the city.

Jerusalem, as always, provided the match. The Palestinians claim exclusive historical and religious rights in the Old City, while denying the centrality of Jerusalem to the Jewish people. As Yasser Arafat clearly stated, his goal is to halt "the Judaization of Jerusalem," including the uncovering of ancient Jewish historical sites.

In 1948, after the Arab Legion occupied the ancient Jewish Quarter and expelled the surviving residents, the Palestinians and Jordanian military attempted to destroy and bury all evidence of Jewish Jerusalem. When the Jewish Quarter was retaken in 1967, the area around the Western Wall was filled with dung, garbage, and animal carcasses. All the synagogues had been destroyed, a road was plowed directly through the Jewish Cemetery on the Mount of Olives, which dates back to the Second Temple, and 38,000 graves had been defaced or destroyed. The city had been divided, with Jews forbidden to enter the area or pray at the Wall.

After 1967 the Israeli government reversed this damage, re-Judaizing Jerusalem, to paraphrase Arafat, and the process continues. Despite the bitterness, the Israeli government didn't respond to the Arabs in kind, but allowed Moslems and Christians to maintain full religious freedom and autonomy. To avoid friction, Jews are still not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount.

THE political battle, however, continues. The false allegations linking Israeli tunneling to damage to Moslem structures go back

to 1974, when the Arabs led UNESCO to pass a resolution condemning Israeli excavations on the same Hasmonean Tunnel. UNESCO appointed an expert group headed by Prof. Raymond Lemaire, UNESCO's representative to Jerusalem, to investigate the charges.

Although Lemaire was expected to find Israel guilty, he reported that "the criticisms that have been leveled at the methods used in the excavations are groundless. The excavations [near the Temple Mount] are being carried out by a perfectly well-qualified team of experts...."

In the past two decades the circumstances and balance of power have shifted. The excavations continued, but the final stage of opening the tunnel on the other side in the Moslem Quarter was postponed to avoid paying the political price.

The previous Labor government recognized that the opening would have to be handled very carefully, and didn't find an opportunity - which only gave the Palestinians the impression they were succeeding in the PR battle for Jerusalem.

Indeed, they were able to run a government from Orient House, and Israeli ministers like Yossi Beilin were discussing formulas giving the Palestinians de-facto control over all but the Jewish Quarter of the Old City in the final-status negotiations.

Last year's wave of suicide bombings led to the election of a new Israeli government that has different priorities, particularly with respect to Jerusalem. Demonstrations and protests by the Palestinians and the Arab world stemmed from the realization that the Netanyahu government wasn't going to acquiesce in any more de-Judaizing of 3,000 years of history in Jerusalem.

At the same time, the circumstances and timing of the government's decision to open the Hasmonean Tunnel gave the Palestinians a perfect opportunity to rally international support for a small-war-against-Israel policy.

In the 100 days since taking office, Netanyahu has failed to

implement the redeployment in Hebron, despite pledges to Egyptian President Mubarak and US President Clinton to act quickly to maintain the peace process. Israel's political capital was already low after the televised demolition of illegal structures in Jerusalem, the announcements of new settlements, and the ongoing war of words with Egypt.

The government was also clearly unprepared to respond to the PR fallout of the Palestinian claims regarding Jerusalem. (The claim that the opening was part of a package deal in return for allowing expansion of Moslem facilities is inconsistent with the secret late-night operation to open the tunnel.) With Netanyahu and most major political leaders out of the country, there was no one to defend the government's policies or respond to events in the critical first hours of the confrontations.

It is possible and perhaps likely that the confrontation with the Palestinian military force was the inevitable result of the Oslo agreements and of allowing the Palestinians to set up a military force far larger than the limit allowed by Oslo.

If the opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem hadn't set off the confrontation, it might have happened later (in Hebron, the settlements in Gaza, or some other incident in Jerusalem). On the other hand, the previous government managed to avoid such clashes, and the lines of communication with the Palestinians are now much weaker than they were under Rabin and Peres.

With the damage already done, the options and their consequences must be considered very carefully. If Netanyahu agrees to close the tunnel, he will be admitting failure in the battle for Jewish Jerusalem, and may be forced to resign or accept a national unity government. While keeping the tunnel open, Netanyahu must lead a public-relations counterattack, focusing on Jewish historical links to Jerusalem and comparing Israel's open policies with the efforts of the Palestinians between 1948 and 1967.

At the same time, he will have to restore the political balance by redeploying from Hebron and accelerating the pace of autonomy. And for the foreseeable future, all sides must consider the full consequences of any change in the status quo in Jerusalem.

The writer is a senior fellow at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.



An armchair opposition

DAVID NEWMAN

THE scenes on Wednesday night's evening news were had enough. Yesterday morning I'm on the phone to a colleague in the Gaza Strip, and I hear the sounds of what appears to be a full-scale battle outside his window.

The days of the intifada seem to have returned, but this time it isn't just stones and bottles. It's live ammunition.

When Benjamin Netanyahu was elected three months ago, some of us on the left, despite our vote for Shimon Peres, were prepared to express a cautious optimism.

There was no way, we argued, that Netanyahu could turn his back on the continued implementation of a peace process that had been authorized by a democratically-elected government. Whatever his electioneering slogans, Netanyahu would have to learn the lesson all politicians do when they finally come to power - that responsible government isn't always compatible with the ideological messages used by a party in opposition.

Three months down the road, even the cautious optimists among us have lost their optimism. We have witnessed a period in which the government has moved even further to the right, finding every possible excuse to delay the implementation of the few remaining articles of the Oslo 2 accord. This despite the oft-repeated slogan that the government wants to move the peace process forward.

When Netanyahu came to power, it wasn't clear what path he would take. There were two constituencies among his supporters that could have swayed him.

The political center, which four years previously had voted for Yitzhak Rabin, supported the security emphasis in the Netanyahu message. At the same time, it favored continuing the negotiations with the Palestinians toward a final, albeit more limited,

agreement.

On the right stood the settler movement. It had provided the backbone of the vociferous opposition to Rabin's government and his policies, as well as the major logistical support for the election campaign itself. It too made demands of the new prime minister: no continuation of the peace process, no withdrawal from any part of Hebron, mass investment in expanding West Bank settlements.

And what of the new opposition? Those who just a few days previously had been in power found themselves excluded from the decision-making process. Now was the time to

demands for social and religious change while in power.

Ever since the formation of Peace Now and Gush Emunim in the 1970s, the latter has always provided a more effective opposition. Whether in power or not, it continued to protest and demonstrate, to come back time after time until it achieved its objectives.

The left wing has never succeeded in mobilizing mass support from the street over an extended period of time. At the most, it has been able to attract mass crowds for single events. In the long term, its active opposition has always fizzled out.

Gush Emunim and the settler

We on the left moan about the government to each other over the Internet, but we don't get out into the street - and stay there

become an active opposition - as Gush Emunim and Zo Artzeinu had done so vociferously and effectively during the four years of the Rabin/Peres government.

But three months down the road, we still haven't yet heard the real voice of opposition. No doubt our deep philosophical analyses over the internet will be full of the evils of the current incumbents and why the situation has degenerated to such a shocking extent over such a short period of time. But getting out into the streets...?

THE LABOR Party is too involved in its own internal political intrigues to care what happens to the peace process. Meretz has disappeared off the face of the earth, its present silence as deafening as many of its strident

lobby continued to provide an ideological opposition even during the 1980s, when the Likud was in power. While some of its members, with government assistance, helped create the West Bank settlement network, others - like Moshe Levinger - continued to provide an ideological opposition from outside, decrying any slow-down in what was perceived as a holy objective.

The left wing has been silent during the past four years. It never demanded more, never pressured the Rabin/Peres government into moving more swiftly toward the final agreements, into lifting the closure of the territories, or, for that matter, opposing the continued influx of settlers into the West Bank.

And now the Likud is back in power the settlers continue to press for action, while the left

wing seems to have vanished into thin air.

It appears to be incapable of standing at all the major crossroads in the country Friday after Friday and bringing the country to a halt. It doesn't appear to have the commitment to its cause that the religious right has shown time after time.

And Netanyahu has heard the message and clearly been influenced. It has come from the right, not the left or center.

Pressure from the latter may have resulted in the grudging implementation of the remainder of the Oslo accords. But the only people who have applied any real pressure since the elections have been the settlers and their supporters.

And Netanyahu has reacted accordingly. He has taken the path toward a more intransigent policy. And for that, we on the left are to blame.

No doubt in the light of this week's events, we on the left will organize an orderly mass rally, and then disperse to our homes. Next week many of us will visit "peace succot" in Jerusalem and Hebron and hold out renewed olive branches to the Palestinians.

But a real opposition to the government? That we seemingly cannot provide.

By vacating the field, we leave it open to those who would dismantle all the achievements of the past four years. And judging by this week's events, they are succeeding.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University.

The worst of all worlds

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE security cabinet meeting at which Prime Minister Netanyahu demanded that his ministers sign an oath of secrecy was hardly a festive occasion, despite the onset of the holidays.

After a flurry of leaks documenting cabinet displeasure about being left out of the Hebron talks, Netanyahu was determined to show that he's in charge. But if he needs his ministers' signature on the dotted line, it is proof that he isn't.

Leaks are a product of internal dissension. Those who leak do so to transfer a dispute into a wider forum. It is a sign that the argument continues, even after the decision has been taken.

In particular, Herut's "Fighting Family," the ideological core of the Likud, is badly in need of a trained social worker.

Benny Begin declared before the recent Likud central committee meeting that he wasn't born a government minister. Uzi Landau had previously supplied the corollary that Netanyahu wasn't born a prime minister. This is the reduction to absurdum of our quasi-presidential system of government.

Like the president of the US, our premier is only a quasi-party leader, not really in control of his own party, except at election time. Unlike the US president, he doesn't control his own cabinet, which retains its essentially parliamentary, non-presidential character.

The presidential prime ministry isn't succeeding because of the damage direct election of the premier has done to the parliamentary system.

Elections involve a choice. Direct election put the choice of prime minister in the hands of the general electorate. However, it also weakened both major parties. As a result, the popularly-chosen prime minister has been left without a choice when it comes to putting together his own government.

Evidently Netanyahu still does not accept this reality. In a TV interview he acceded to the suggestion that he would use his new statutory power to discharge a minister opposed to his policy line, if there need arose for such action.

But is this really an option? If Netanyahu truly possesses the political power needed to fire recalcitrant ministers, he would have had the political power not to appoint them in the first place. This, indeed, was his initial inclination, but he gave it up in short order.

The only real option Netanyahu has today, if he finds his present government unmanageable, is a national unity government with

Labor. There are no other alternative coalition partners. In effect, he has no choices to make.

NOR CAN he change the power structure within his own party. The cost of putting together a majority coalition, given the Likud's reduced parliamentary strength, means there is little in the way of appointments that can

Our present system has proven unworkable from the day after the votes were counted

be traded for political support within his own party.

A US president at the turn of the century once complained, that every time he appointed one out of the 10 contenders for a political job, he created one ingrate and nine opponents.

Netanyahu's ratio may be even worse. Coalition weakness and party weakness are mutually reinforcing. Likud ministers who want to buck Netanyahu can count on support from ministers representing his coalition partners, and vice versa.

The coalition-building process didn't stop with the formation of the Netanyahu government. It continues to this very day. There could be a coalition within the government itself, in which the prime minister would be in a minority.

Yitzhak Rabin, chosen by popu-

lar vote in his party's first primaries, also wanted to be a presidential prime minister. He succeeded to a remarkable degree. He initially took his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, out of the peace talks, putting them in the hands of his cabinet secretary, Elyakim Rubinstein.

When Netanyahu tried to put his cabinet secretary Danny Naveh in charge of talks with the Palestinian Authority, it provoked a cabinet crisis, and Netanyahu had to back down.

Rabin pushed hard for the adoption of the direct election reform. His success, however, was due to the fact that he was elected in parliamentary elections as the head of "Labor under Rabin's leadership." Labor's Knesset strength gave Rabin real control over his coalition and over his party, despite his lack of control of the party machinery and the long history of internal rivalry.

If Netanyahu wants to be a presidential prime minister, he should do what Rabin did, not what he preached. He should move to abolish direct elections and, in their stead, adopt a system according to which the leader of the largest party in the Knesset is automatically designated prime minister. This would restore the motivation to vote for one of the two major parties and ensure that the winner would also have the ability to govern.

Our present system has proven unworkable from the day after the votes were counted. In the compromise between presidential and parliamentary government, we seem to have chosen the worst of all possible worlds.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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who have joined us to participate in the dedication ceremonies of our new building and campus.

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Opening and introduction by **Dr. Martin Weitz**

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SCRIPT

Battle rages for control of Kabul

KABUL (AP) - Rebel rockets slammed into Kabul yesterday, in a fateful battle for the Afghan capital by government troops clinging to their last stronghold against an onslaught of Islamist guerrillas.

Fierce fighting on the eastern fringe of Kabul killed hundreds of combatants on both sides, said a Red Cross official.

With cannons booming in the background, thousands of Kabul residents packed into buses, spilled out the doors and climbed onto the roofs in a hurried flight from the war zone.

International aid agencies, which have tended to Kabul's battered populace since the Russian-backed regime fell to an alliance of Afghan guerrillas in 1992, evacuated their staff.

The International Committee of the Red Cross suspended its relief flights after flying out most of the remaining diplomats and aid workers.

Government jets and helicopter gunships bombed rebel positions, holding back rebel efforts to overrun the city, a government spokesman said.

The two biggest pockets of fighting were near a military college 10 kilometers from the city center, and the Old Customs house in Pule-Charkhi suburb.

The fighting pits troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani against the Taliban, a movement led by ex-seminary students who want to run Afghanistan strictly by Islamic law.

Retreating government soldiers said the Taliban captured the military college, gaining access to a highway to Baghram air base, Kabul's last air link with the world.

"Either we die or we defend Kabul against

the Taliban," said Amrullah, a government spokesman, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

"Kabul is not like any other city in Afghanistan for the Taliban to be able to just march in," he said. "Perhaps they will lose thousands of fighters coming to Kabul."

A government spokesman based in Pakistan said that among the dead was Maulvi Borjan, Taliban's top commander, but a Taliban spokesman denied it.

Borjan was reported killed Wednesday in the battle for Sarobi, the eastern gateway to Kabul. If correct, it would be a major setback for the rebel forces.

As rockets smashed into the Microyan Complex, which houses refugees from previous battles, markets in central Kabul hastily shut. Fearing street fighting, war-savvy residents had thronged the markets to stock up on supplies.

The thunder of heavy artillery and rockets rattled the capital. Panicky soldiers waving Kalashnikov rifles cleared the streets of cars and people, smashing their rifle butts into vehicles that didn't move fast enough.

A government spokesman said troops had enough ammunition to defend Kabul.

Yesterday afternoon, government troops dug bunkers at the perimeter of the city to form a second line of defense, backed up by tanks and armored personnel carriers.

The combat zone was strewn with bodies of Taliban fighters, the government spokesman said. The government claimed to have killed 150 rebels, while three of their men were killed and 21 wounded.

A Taliban spokesman claimed, however, that

100 government soldiers were killed in the battle for the military college.

The rebels began their advance on the capital Wednesday after capturing the town of Sarobi. Government jets responded with air strikes.

Rabbani's forces hold only Kabul and a few provinces to the north. Taliban controls about two-thirds of Afghanistan, most of it won without a fight.

"Basically, the city is cornered in all four sides and we don't know whether there will be a peaceful takeover like the other places or not," said Esther Robertson of the British relief agency, CARE. "We feel that it is better to go now while we have a chance."

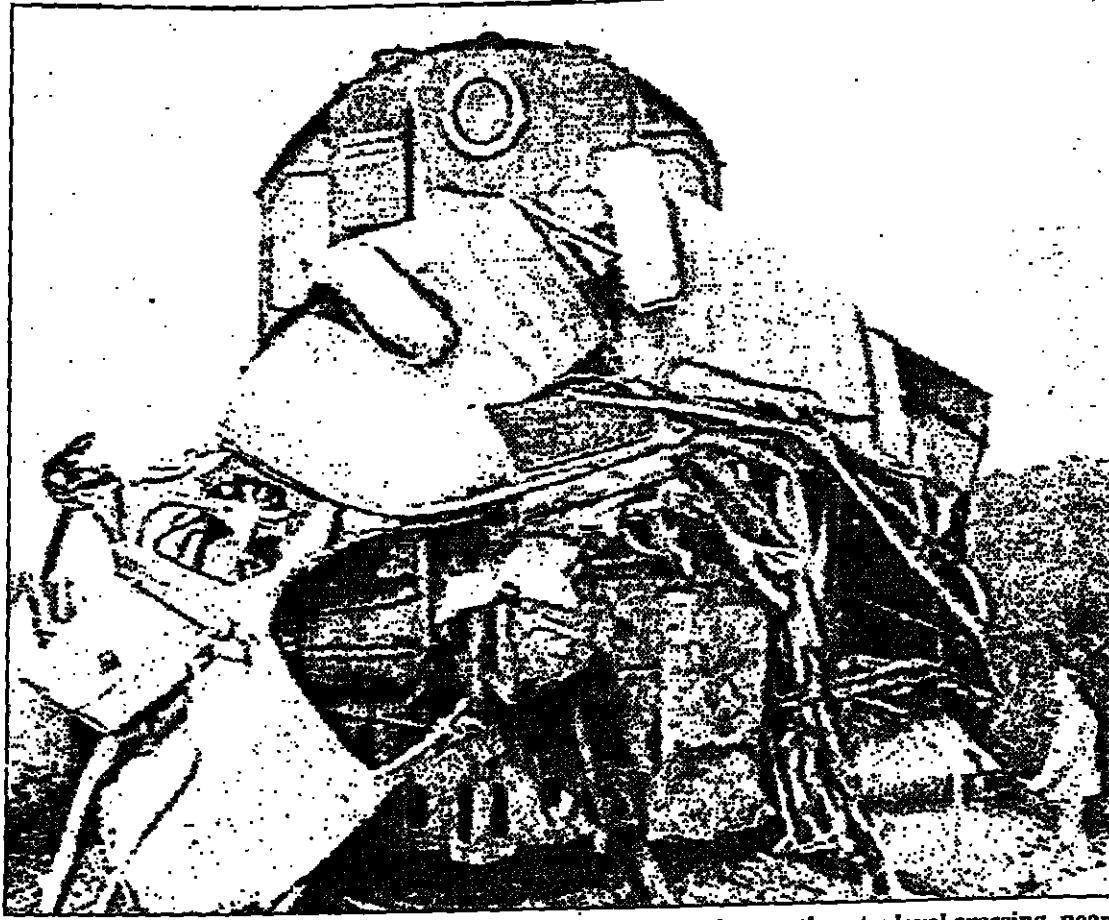
One key to Kabul is Baghram, 30 kilometers north of Kabul, a military airfield that has served as a civilian airport and lifeline since Kabul Airport was closed by rebel rocket attacks.

Government jets screamed in and out of Baghram on bombing raids. Rabbani's forces remained in control of the hills around Baghram and mined one of the two roads to Kabul to block the Taliban advance.

In the southern city of Kandahar, Mullah Omar, a senior Taliban commander, announced an amnesty for anyone who surrendered, including Rabbani.

The fighting defied a UN Security Council call Wednesday for an immediate cease-fire. Rabbani's spokesman blamed the world body for inaction.

"They (the UN) can understand that there will be a massacre in Kabul ... But they are watching it. It is shameful," said Amrullah. "The UN means United Nothing for Afghanistan."



A man looks at the wreckage of a school bus which was hit by a locomotive at a level crossing near the village of Kagainitskaya, 30km from the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don. Seventeen children were killed instantly and 14 others and three adults were injured in the tragedy. (Reuters)

Atlantis returns home with record-setting astronaut

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - Astronaut Shannon Lucid returned to Earth on the space shuttle Atlantis yesterday, eager to see her family, take a shower, and feel the sun and wind after a record six months in orbit.

Her voyage - the longest space flight by a woman and an American - ended right on time with an 8:13 a.m. touchdown at the Kennedy Space Center, where her trip had begun in March.

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin brought a gift for Lucid from President Bill Clinton: a huge box of candy-coated chocolates wrapped in gold-colored foil and embossed with the presidential seal. Lucid had craved the candy while living on the Russian space station Mir. The president also sent a letter of congratulations.

Several hundred people gathered at the runway to welcome Lucid and her five crewmates home. The crowd included her husband and their three children, all in their 20s.

Atlantis glided through wispy clouds and touched down smoothly, giving Lucid her first taste of Earth's gravity in six months. Weak and wobbly, she was met by NASA flight surgeons and transferred on a stretcher into an airport-style people mover. She was taken to the crew quarters building for a battery of medical tests and, later in the day, a reunion with her family.

"I talked to Shannon just a little while ago and she sounded just the way she did on orbit: very happy to be doing what she's doing but also very happy to be back down on Earth," said Frank Culbertson, director of NASA's shuttle-Mir program in Houston.

"The docs say that she is in really good health, that there are no surprises, and they expect rehabilitation to go normal," he said.

The 53-year-old biochemist spent 188 days and five hours off the planet. She traveled 120 million kilometers - equal to 157 trips to the moon and back - and circled Earth 3,008 times.

"All adventures have to come to an end," she said on Wednesday. "You have to go home sometime, and I'm ready to go home."

Lucid blasted off March 22 on Atlantis prepared for a 4 1/2-month mission to Mir, and was supposed to return to Earth in early August. But equipment trouble and two hurricanes delayed the shuttle's launch, leaving her in orbit an extra seven weeks.

Atlantis took off on September

16, and two days later docked with the Russian station. As the six shuttle astronauts floated into Mir, Lucid hugged the men, the first Americans she had seen in half a year.

In the first exchange of US astronauts on the 10-year-old outpost, NASA astronaut John Blaha took Lucid's place. The 54-year-old retired Air Force colonel is the third American to live on Mir; the first was Dr. Norman Thagard last year.

Blaha is supposed to spend four months on Mir, sharing the station with two Russian cosmonauts who arrived on the orbiting complex last month. Two other cosmonauts occupied Mir during Lucid's first five months.

The shuttle and station flew together for five days, and the nine space travelers moved two tons of food, water and other supplies from Atlantis to Mir and one ton of scientific samples and equipment to the shuttle. Atlantis undocked on Monday.

A fifth Mir-docking mission is planned for January. Atlantis will bring up astronaut Jerry Linenger, who will switch places with Blaha.

The weather rules were tighter than usual for yesterday morning's landing because of the failure of one of Atlantis' three hydraulic units that control the rudder, wing flaps, and landing gear. The two remaining units appeared to work well.

Russian security chief gives bleak assessment of country's state

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian security chief Alexander Lebed, painting a picture of deep instability as President Boris Yeltsin prepared for heart surgery, yesterday warned that Russia was on the brink of chaos and the army could soon mutiny.

"We are at a dangerous limit, a very dangerous limit. It is not a time to fight. We must get out of the abyss," he told a news conference.

Lebed made a stream of controversial statements only hours after Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin issued a rallying cry aimed at heading off disension in his cabinet in the prolonged political uncertainty over Yeltsin's health.

Doctors said on Wednesday Yeltsin was fit enough to have

heart surgery but they delayed his planned bypass operation for at least six weeks to improve the chances of success.

Lebed, widely regarded as jostling for power with Chernomyrdin in Yeltsin's absence, said decision-making had practically dried up and some parts of Russia faced disaster.

"The will of the state has gone... Many people have adopted a wait-and-see position," the blunt-spoken, 46-year-old retired paratrooper general said.

He cited major security threats including unsafe atomic power plants and possible contamination from nuclear submarines.

He repeated his view made in a newspaper interview on Wednesday that the underfunded army was close to mutiny.

Apartheid killer implicates South Africa in Palme assassination

PRETORIA (AP) - Convicted apartheid assassin Eugene de Kock yesterday implicated South Africa's former security services in the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986.

De Kock told a court he approached the attorney-general's office with information that a secret operation headed by former super-spy Craig Williamson was involved in Palme's murder.

Palme, an anti-apartheid crusader, was killed February 28, 1986, by a lone assassin who shot him in the back with a .357-caliber magnum pistol. The killer escaped into the night and has never been identified.

De Kock, who was testifying in the sentencing phase of his trial, was asked why he approached the attorney-general's office. He said he was trying to mitigate his sentence by providing "information such as the assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and Craig Williamson's involvement in the assassination."

In Stockholm, Lars Jonsson, the deputy chief of the Swedish police panel looking into the murder, said investigators have had the allegations about South African involvement for nine years.

Jonsson declined to say whether he thought the allegations were true, but he said the panel will now study the material more closely.

The lawyer in the attorney-general's office who met with de Kock declined to say specifically whether she had been given any information on the Palme killing. She would only say that de Kock had given information on a number of cases.

De Kock was the head of Vlakplaas, a covert apartheid-era police unit notorious for murdering and torturing anti-apartheid activists.

Earlier this month, De Kock was convicted on 89 charges, including six counts of murder for killing anti-apartheid activists.

Williamson, a white South African, went abroad in 1977 and infiltrated South African anti-apartheid groups abroad, including then outlawed African National Congress and the South African Communist Party.

He returned to South Africa in January of 1980 after his true identity had become known to the anti-apartheid groups.

Palme, one of the most outspoken critics of apartheid, was at the forefront of imposing sanctions on South Africa and supported the now governing African National Congress through the 1960s and 70s.

He was killed while he and his wife Lisbeth walked home unguarded from a movie theater.

Spy who stole atom bomb secrets dead at 89

MOSCOW (AP) - Pavel Sudoplatov, the Soviet spy-master who stole the secret of the atomic bomb and plotted the assassination of Leon Trotsky, has died in Moscow at age 89, newspapers reported yesterday.

Sudoplatov, a lieutenant-general in the KGB, died Tuesday at home following a recent stroke, the daily *Moskovsky Komsomolets* said.

In the 1930s Sudoplatov headed a branch of dictator Josef Stalin's secret police that carried political assassinations. Among the murders he engineered was that of Trotsky, Stalin's arch-rival, in Mexico in 1940.

In his last interview, published yesterday in *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, Sudoplatov said he never considered himself a terrorist but a fighter against "terrorists battling the Soviet state."

In the 1940s, Sudoplatov oversaw Soviet espionage

effort against the Manhattan Project, the US program to develop the atomic bomb.

In his autobiography *Special Tasks: The Memoirs of an Unwanted Witness - A Soviet Spy-master*, published in 1994, he wrote about "moles" he had at Manhattan Project labs.

He said he obtained a description of the bomb's design in 1945 and used it to develop Soviet nuclear weapons. Sudoplatov claimed that J. Robert Oppenheimer, head of the Los Alamos lab, and physicists Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi, and Leo Szilard gave the KGB information about the American project.

The FBI said after a 1995 investigation that there was no evidence to back up his claim, and Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service agreed, adding that Sudoplatov had exaggerated his own role.

Hong Kong activist drowns during anti-Japan protest

ABOARD THE HANGHAI (Reuters) - A Hong Kong activist drowned in the rolling East China Sea yesterday after Japanese patrol boats thwarted his protest ship's bid to land on a disputed archipelago to claim it back for China.

David Chan, 45, and four other protesters had leapt into the storm-whipped sea, vowing to defy even Japan's claim to the island's waters, when the Japanese blocked their attempt to make landfall on the archipelago.

Chan's death was the first in a wave of protests to sweep Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and China since July, when Japanese ultranationalists built a lighthouse and raised Japan's flag on the islands northeast of Taiwan to assert Tokyo's sovereignty.

The tragedy aboard the rusty tanker *Kien Hwa 2*, witnessed by reporters aboard the nearby fishing boat *Hanghai*, brought expressions of regret in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Beijing and Taipei and calls for cooler heads.

The death also heightened tension between Japan, which has claimed the islands since 1895 as the Senkaku, and China, which calls them the Diaoyu and has claimed them for centuries.

China, keen to marshal patriotism stirred by the sovereignty dispute without offending Japanese investors, reiterated its call for Tokyo to restrain right-wing activists whose actions have whipped up Chinese nationalism against Japan.

My dear
MINNIE
is at peace

Always missed by
Melody

Our beloved friend

MINNIE DAVIMES

has left us

Ever remembered by

Yvonne and Reuben Narunsky

Our beloved mother, grandmother, sister and aunt

MINNIE DAVIMES

is no longer with us.

She will be in our hearts forever.
Always missed and never forgotten by:

Her sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren:
Barry and Linda Roy and Laura
Gerl, Rory and Marni Gemma

Her sister and brother-in-law:

Toonie and Issie Marcus and children

Her nieces and nephews:

Sonja and Brian Loden David and Dina Narunsky
Guy, Mark and Ariel Daniel, Lian and Ariel

The funeral will take place today, Friday, September 27, at 2:30 p.m. at the Kfar Shmaryahu cemetery.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of
our mother and grandmother

IRMA SAMUEL

The funeral will take place today, Friday, September 27, 1996
(14 Tishrei 5757), at 11:00 a.m. at the Yarkon cemetery

Daughter: **Hagit Kochva**

Son and daughter-in-law: **Yoram and Nitsa Samuel**

Grandchildren: **Danit, Rona, Dafi and Assaf**

Great-grandson: **Idan**

אשרי ה' יתן

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, September 27, 1996

Netanyahu's first 100 days: More leadership needed

The Likud government has been reacting to rather than shaping events, reports David Makovsky

THE two days of bloody battles in the territories cap Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's first 100 days in power and highlight the fact that the new prime minister faces serious challenges on virtually all fronts - from a possible intifada in the streets of the West Bank to Syrian army movements and verbal barrages from Egypt.

Elsewhere, normalization efforts with the Arab world have stalled.

For his part, Netanyahu believes the Arabs are testing him, perhaps in the way Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev tested inexperienced US president John Kennedy.

To be sure, even at the zenith of Labor's peacemaking efforts, Egypt was blasting Israel (the nuclear non-proliferation treaty was Cairo's *peve du jour*), and Shimon Peres also had his share of grief from PA chairman Yasser Arafat and Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Still, there were not challenges from all sides like this. While it cannot be ignored that the Arabs carry their share of the blame, it turns out that one of Prime Minister Netanyahu's biggest nemesis during these first 100 days has been Candidate Netanyahu.

Perhaps more than any other factor, this has fueled his profound failure to project leadership and, in particular, misread the Palestinian issue.

This is true both because there was no blueprint for action during the first 100 days and because positions he took then have come back to haunt him, even though his views have in fact changed since coming to office.

When Candidate Netanyahu was asked how his first 100 days in office would look, he answered that leading Likud moderate Dan Meridor was working on a plan. When the reporter called Meridor to follow up, Meridor replied, "this is the first I heard of it. I am not working on a 100-day plan."

The problem was that Premier Netanyahu took positions on the campaign trail which would bamboozle him as premier.

Specifically, during the campaign Candidate Netanyahu thundered against the terms of the Oslo accord, denounced Arafat in very strong words and opposed Hebron redeployment.

Upon taking office, aides insist Netanyahu reached a very different conclusion: there was no alternative to Oslo, and a meeting with Arafat was inevitable - as was Hebron redeployment, with insiders saying Netanyahu only seeks "modest" modifications on the Oslo II agreement on the city.

Many would obviously continue to question Netanyahu's commitment to Oslo to this very day.

But a turning point for Netanyahu seems to have been the security briefing by General Security Services head Maj.-Gen. Ami Ayalon immediately after the election. Ayalon made clear that the security effort of the PA against Hamas terrorism cannot exist in a vacuum. A credible political dialogue was vital. He made clear that peace serves an Israeli security interest.

Netanyahu was not alone in the realization that there is no alternative to Oslo. In an interview published last week, even Education Minister Ze'evulun Hammer - head of the most hawkish party of Netanyahu's coalition, the National Religious Party - reluctantly admitted that "Oslo is the structure."

INSTEAD of acting on the conclusion that there was no alternative to Oslo, Netanyahu expended much of the 100 days with no apparent purpose except struggling with the trap of his own campaign.

After blasting Peres during the campaign for walking hand in

hand with Arafat, Netanyahu found it hard to say he would meet with the Palestinian leader, even when, according to his aides, he had already decided to do so.

However, in a Rosh Hashana interview, Netanyahu said the meeting with Arafat was obvious, a simple "derivative result" of adhering to Oslo.

Even so, the public perception became that Netanyahu only met Arafat after President Ezer Weizman cornered him into doing so after a joint press conference. This became part of a gathering image stalking Netanyahu during his 100 days, namely of his reacting to events instead of taking command.

The same would also be the case when it came to Hebron. Weeks went by as Netanyahu would only say he was "studying" the situation, while those in his circle say they knew all along he would redeploy.

This seemed embarrassing, as Netanyahu was left saying how he wanted Arafat to adhere to written agreements while he was free to renegotiate them. Netanyahu made references to the Jewish community in Hebron as living in "enclaves," when in fact according to the Oslo II agreement IDF control of territorial contiguity existed there, as it did between Hebron and Kiryat Arba.

Netanyahu seemed to think he was creating a tougher image by only slowly coming around to his current position of modifying the current agreement.

Insiders believe Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's "modest" plans might have been quietly attainable from the Palestinians during implementation months ago, but by stonewalling in public Netanyahu turned it into an issue. Not surprisingly, the Palestinians did the same.

Moreover, after the Weizman press conference the public perception inside the country grew that once again Netanyahu was succumbing to pressure, this time due to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's threat to cancel the regional economic summit Cairo scheduled for November.

The net result is that months were lost as Netanyahu avoided saying things his aides say he would have agreed to from the start, and he was left looking like the servant of events.

It really didn't have to turn out this way.

Netanyahu rightfully spoke about "reciprocity," namely Israel's right to ensure Palestinian compliance in return for concessions.

From Day 1 of his tenure, Netanyahu could have made amply clear he would meet Arafat and pull back from Hebron, but that first he wanted compliance on closing Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. In fact, Netanyahu's foreign policy aide Dore Gold succeeded in securing the closing of the institutions very shortly after Netanyahu authorized him to meet Palestinians.

Netanyahu himself seemed to oscillate between projecting overconfidence in his ability to handle the Palestinians and a lack of confidence in actually dealing with Hebron and other issues due to the campaign and perhaps due to concern that Likud ideologues would not give him room.

In fact, the prime minister seemed to forget that he already succeeded in marginalizing Science Minister Benny Begin and also kept National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon away from decisionmaking on settlements and peace negotiations.

Yet, even when Netanyahu proceeded with the Palestinians, other actions would take different arms of his own government in such a way the Palestinian public began to think the worst of

Netanyahu's intentions.

A day after the Palestinians agreed to close their Jerusalem "offices," it was announced that Israel was expanding settlements and demolishing a Palestinian home in the Old City.

Adding insult to injury, and soon thereafter, Arafat's helicopter was asked by the IDF to circle in the air for 40 minutes.

Netanyahu has not realized that the Palestinians see Israel as a regional superpower, and therefore always devising a sinister Zionist master plan and never committing a bureaucratic foul-up. Arafat interpreted the timing of Israeli moves to mean that concessions do not pay but rather Israel is determined to "humiliate" him at all costs.

This week was another example of the Palestinians suspecting the worst due to months of suspicion. Even though the Old City tunnel exit opened this week does not run under the Temple Mount, it was of no matter. As one Western diplomat put it "when there is no movement on the peace process and economic conditions remain poor and Israel seems very efficient when it comes to announcing settlements, perception is greater than fact and [Palestinians] believe that Netanyahu is out to undermine them once again."

NON-ISRAELI sources say Netanyahu should publicly hold out hope to the Palestinians by saying if there is no terrorism, Israel will seek to gradually increase the number of Palestinian workers allowed to enter Israel daily to 100,000 over the next year, surpassing levels permitted by Labor.

It should be noted that Netanyahu has increased the number of Palestinian workers since taking office from 22,000 to 37,000.

Israelis have informed Palestinians that the number would increase - probably to 50,000 - after the PA accepts modifications in Hebron redeployment. However, the real question is how Netanyahu will make room for these Palestinians, given that Israel seems totally incapable of stopping the flow of 250,000 legal and illegal foreign workers coming to Israel.



appointees from abroad, no decisions have been made about filling key postings at the UN, Moscow, Cairo, Ankara, and New York.

However, personnel problems have also occurred at home. As it stands now, Netanyahu does not have a *chef de bureau*, a gate-keeper post which Eitan Haber - who filled the post under former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin - turned into signaling Rabin's public priorities.

Moreover, Netanyahu also does not have a permanent legal adviser. In addition by favoring party loyalty over competence, the premier filled the post of economic adviser with a Likud accountant, despite his pledge to make economic reform his top priority and a promise to attract excellence in public service.

This omission is even more glaring given Netanyahu's decision at the first cabinet meeting to create a Council of Economic Advisers, only to abandon the idea shortly thereafter due to opposition of the Bank of Israel and the Finance Ministry.

The other US-style reform which Netanyahu quickly reversed himself on was the creation of a National Security Council. Again, appearing to respond to events rather than to command them, he pulled the plug on this innovative idea to improve the quality of inter-agency cooperation and decision-making amid resistance from Mordechai.

The lack of follow-through has been most evident when it comes to the issue of privatization. Despite the blaze of publicity, Netanyahu has not given the public any evidence how he is going to attack this issue.

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky says he has never seen Netanyahu so animated as when they discuss prospects for improving hi-tech exports.

However, this does not come across to the public. Lieberman says Netanyahu is serious about change, saying "our hi-tech industry creates a product of \$6 billion, with \$4.6b. going to export. However, we have only 14,000 people involved in R&D hi-tech and another 26,000 support staff. We have a shortage of at least 10,000 hi-tech people. If we can double the number of computer programmers and the like, we can reach a \$12b. product. This will be one of our priorities."

One of Netanyahu's greatest strengths is that he has been underestimated during his political life and in no small measure, due to resilience, he has beaten the odds.

Now is the moment for him to conceive the realistic plan he should have put together before his election and convey it effectively to the public.

The test Netanyahu faces today is whether in his next 100 days he will succeed in projecting the leadership which has been lacking until now.

As one minister in the Netanyahu government confided, "we have a much greater interest in helping the Palestinian economy than we do in helping the Romanian economy. Plus, the Palestinians go home to Gaza at night while the foreign workers import their social problems to Tel Aviv. However, we have no enforcement mechanism to deport so many people. In the cabinet, there is sound and fury on many issues, but no action."

While the Arabs won't go to war for the Palestinians, the Palestinian cause genuinely resonates in the region. Ties with Egypt, which began well, quickly deteriorated into name-calling.

While personal ties between Netanyahu and King Hussein seem to remain strong, Hussein publicly called for the tunnel exit to be shut.

Moreover, Qatar and Tunisia have made clear that they would not open links with Israel, despite past pledges. Morocco's King Hassan refuses to see Netanyahu. Hopes for reviving the multilateral peace talks on regional cooperation have so far faded.

Just as delays on the Palestinian

track generated the downward regional climate, favorable movement on the Palestinian front could engender more regional movement towards Israel. Moreover, it could create a new push-pull momentum that would probably force the Syrians to at least modify their current, frankly unattainable, demands for resumption of talks.

If Netanyahu's modifications for Hebron are as modest as insiders say, current peace talks should be concluded rather quickly. Until earlier this week, it seemed that Hebron would be sufficient to get everything back on track. However, with talks postponed due to the disturbances, the question now is when will peace talks even begin and will the situation deteriorate further?

One hopes that events of this week do not jeopardize one of Netanyahu's few achievements. Halting bus bombings was a key promise that he made to his voters and one of his only achievements, which ironically was only possible because of Arafat's efforts.

While Labor officials say that Arafat began tougher enforcement against Hamas during the Peres government, by Palestinians' own admission they were lax until then.

SO FAR, apart from trusted aides, Netanyahu consults with a few key cabinet ministers who can be called his kitchen cabinet. They are Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and even Foreign Minister David Levy.

While Levy deeply embarrassed Netanyahu at the outset of his government by twice issuing ultimatums and helping create the impression that Netanyahu would cave in under pressure, in fact it seems Netanyahu and Levy seem to have worked out a functional modus vivendi.

Netanyahu has brought Levy into the inner circle, but Levy views his own role, in his words, not as policymaking, but as "implementing" Netanyahu's decisions.

In reality, this means being a public spokesman for Netanyahu's policies and being able to having a key say on plum diplomatic appointments. Yet so far, despite the fanfare of saying it would call back political

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The war of words

Despite their saber-rattling, Syria and Egypt are merely aiming to scare Israel, win applause from other Arabs, and gain international attention, argues Barry Rubin

EGYPT and Syria are concocting loud "crises" with Israel. But the noise factor is more important than any aspect of confrontation.

Both Cairo and Damascus want to show their regional importance and display opposition to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies. But neither of them has any real means of doing this or wants to do anything drastic. The high sound level substitutes for and conceals their lack of serious alternatives.

The Syrian case is simpler. President Hafez Assad has a choice: to make war on Israel or to make peace with Israel. He is incapable of doing the former and unwilling to do the latter.

Without a superpower ally and arms supplier, genuine Arab backing, or even a strategic goal for fighting, Syria has no military option. It must also take into account likely US responses to any attack, which may well be larger and more decisive than any previous American intervention.

If Syria wanted to use force as a diplomatic lever - as Egypt did in starting the 1973 war - an armed offensive might make sense. But Assad knows far better than most Western diplomats and analysts that peace would be disastrous for him. Syria's power within the Arab world, and Lebanon in particular, would decline.

Israeli regional influence would grow and it could oppose Syrian ambitions far more effectively. Syria would gain few economic or political benefits. And, from his viewpoint, Assad would go down in the history books as the man who sealed the Arab national cause's defeat. Consequently, Damascus turned down the previous Israeli government's offer of virtually everything it claimed to want.

Damascus now seeks to pose simultaneously as the champion of both peace and Arab militancy precisely to cover up Syria's impotence. It is unlikely to attract either Western sympathy or Arab material help. Marching around troops near the Israel-Syria border will change nothing except, perhaps, raise local morale.

EGYPT'S situation is more important and complex. President Hosni Mubarak genuinely wants a rapidly progressing peace process. Egypt has a great stake in regional stability and preserving its alignment with the United States. It is the enemy of Islamic revolutionaries, responsible for bloody terrorism within its own borders, and radical regimes.

Egypt has been the patron of Arab peace-making, trying to guide, prod and encourage the PLO and Syria toward successful negotiations with Israel. Therefore, despite close Egypt-Syria cooperation, their goals are the direct opposite: Cairo wants to drag Damascus into the peace process; Assad wants to pull Mubarak and Arafat out of it.

Up until now, Israel and Egypt have been on the same side on these broader issues. Now, however, a case can be made that it is Israel's policy which is undermining the peace process. This is the main new source of friction with Egypt.

The biggest problem in recent years between Israel and Egypt has been Cairo's concern that Israel's integration into the Middle East was making a potential rival to its own aspirations. These concerns were heightened by the successes of Israel's previous government in coming to terms with the Palestinians, diplomatic progress with several smaller Arab states, the creation of close Israeli alliances with Turkey and Jordan, and Israel's impressive economy.

Of course, even in the best-case analysis of former prime minister Shimon Peres's "new Middle East," there would have been very clear limits on what Israel could achieve. Egypt's Arab identity gives it a permanent edge over any influence Israel can wield. Moreover, some Arab states would refuse to talk with Israel or even remain in a technical state of war against it.

Nevertheless, the Jewish state's relative military strength and economic power has been taken very seriously in Cairo. This fear may not correspond to reality, but it was nonetheless genuine.

Egypt has plenty of problems at home, too. There are no promising sources of massive foreign aid or investment, either Western or Arab. While some progress has been made in recent years, it still has a whopping birth rate, paralyzing bureaucracy, urban migration that outruns infrastructure development, lagging economic development, massive (though often hidden) unemployment, and a daunting list of other difficulties.

A tougher policy toward Israel would not make that much difference domestically. The regime's radical Islamic opponents would be happy to see Mubarak take such a stance, yet nothing he will do will win their support. The same factor holds for any Saudi willingness to provide more aid. Still, more criticism of Israel would lead to more good than harm within the country.

Egypt's main source of pride is its role as the single most populous, strongest, and culturally productive Arab state. By asserting Egyptian primacy among the Arabs, Mubarak is not only accepting a task that most appropriately belongs to his country but also one needed to satisfy its positive self-image. And, as may be seen in Russia, a decline in the state's international role can significantly lower domestic morale.

In contrast to the past, this foreign policy is also largely cost-free. During his reign from 1952 to 1970, Gamal Abdel Nasser, the regime's founder, became the closest thing to a universal leader the Arabs have known in modern times. For Egypt, these were years of glory, defying

the West and being hailed as savior throughout much of the Arab world.

Yet the country gained little materially from these campaigns, suffering high casualties and defeats from intervention in Yemen's civil war, provoking a 1967 war with Israel, being subject to growing Soviet leverage, and having a stagnant economy.

NASSER'S successor, Anwar Sadat, thus chose to make peace with Israel and reconcile Egypt with the US. Despite Arab sanctions against Egypt, he was confident that the Arabs could not manage without their most important country for long. By the late 1980s, he was proven posthumously correct. Mubarak took Egypt back to the center of Arab politics, but coupled a striving for leadership with caution and a search for peace.

Characteristically, he told the 1989 Arab summit: "God has granted us a mind with which to think. We fought for many years, but where did we get?... I am therefore not ready to take more risks... Wars have generally not solved any problem."

The cornerstone of his Arab policy was a triangular alignment between Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He urged Syria to make peace with Israel, once piloting Syrian President Hafez Assad over the Sinai to show him the land Egypt regained through its treaty with Israel. At the same time, Mubarak tried to hold the Arab states in line to discourage normalization with Israel until there was such a comprehensive agreement.

But this strategy did not achieve full success. Syria rejected Israel's offer to return the Golan Heights. Arab states like Jordan, Morocco and Oman made deals with Israel despite the absence of an Israel-Syria agreement. Now the policy of Israel's new prime minister is likely to slow down the Israel-Palestinian peace process as well.

Thus, the policy Egypt needs is clear. It must do something dramatic to demonstrate its own leadership in the Arab world and Middle East, oppose the Netanyahu government's policy, revive the Arab-Israeli peace process, and prod the US to put pressure on Israel.

At the same time, though, such a policy must not be financially and diplomatically expensive or risky. Egypt does not want to distance itself from the US, its main supplier of aid and arms. Equally, in contrast to Syria, it does not want to wreck the peace process.

Mubarak's options are limited, and words alone are the most attractive weapon. Egyptian leaders can say nasty things about Israel and Netanyahu, threaten to cancel an economic conference in Cairo, push other Arab countries to freeze normalization with Israel, and appeal to the US.

Yet, as with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty last year, a verbally militant Egyptian campaign attracting international attention can be followed by a quieter retreat. If an economic conference benefits Egypt, both materially and in terms of image, he is unlikely to cancel it.

In short, Egypt and Syria want to throw a scare into Israel, win applause from other Arabs, and gain international attention.

This drama's opening scene is easy for them to compose. But they have great difficulty in coming up with an impressive finale.

Neighborly criticism

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa is outspoken about his harsh evaluation of recent Israeli actions, Hillel Kuttler writes from Washington

THE last thing Amr Moussa could be accused of is reticence. A wallflower the Egyptian foreign minister is not, particularly when discussing Israel.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu? He "is not playing under the rules of the game" in the peace process.

Israeli government officials attending the regional economic conference in Cairo this November? They "will certainly be isolated" because of Netanyahu's policies.

And Netanyahu's Lebanon First proposal? "That should be not only rejected, but thrown from the very first window."

And those were just some of Moussa's pronouncements during an hour-long interview in his hotel suite last Sunday in New York, where he is spending the week attending the UN opening session.

To think what Moussa might have had to say about the latest developments.

Egyptian-Israeli relations turned tense last year as Cairo pressed Jerusalem, persistently and vainly, to sign on to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty extension.

Ties further deteriorated following Netanyahu's May 29 election victory. Recent weeks mark a nadir.

President Hosni Mubarak threatened to postpone or cancel the economic conference due to stalled Israeli-Palestinian talks. The deputy foreign minister said Netanyahu's concern for security demanded psychiatric attention. Egypt's press mocked the premier as "rotten" and compared him to Hitler. And Defense Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi warned, while his armed forces conducted major maneuvers last week, that his country ought to beware of a future Israeli nuclear attack.

At the center of the storm lies Moussa - a primary architect of Egypt's foreign policy and a leading articulator of the Arab line toward Israel.

In Sunday's interview, Moussa, as if foreseeing this week's riots, placed the onus for any future disturbances squarely on Israel, specifically Netanyahu's failure to implement central provisions of the Oslo accords and his plans to expand settlements.

Mubarak suggested last week that a new, more dangerous Palestinian intifada might spring from frustration with the pace of the peace process.

Moussa reiterated that prediction - and then some.

"I am telling you that the continuation of this policy, not only [on] settlements, but the policy of rejection and non-implementation of [agreements], will lead to an intifada," Moussa said. "President Mubarak is right; it will lead to a serious intifada. As I tell you, the Israeli government cannot have their cake and eat it, and will not - not only cannot, but will not."

Asked whether such statements on an intifada are liable to evolve into a self-fulfilling prophecy, Moussa scoffed.

"You mean, we [should] calm the situation in order to permit the settlements to be built in a quieter atmosphere? Is that what you mean? ... The actions of the Israeli government



Amr Moussa: Israel is expelling Palestinians from Jerusalem.

inflammate the situation, not the statements. You shouldn't blame the reaction and forgive the actions."

Does it concern him that if there is another intifada, violence might reach new levels?

"Ask Netanyahu," Moussa said. "Because what disturbs us is building settlements and the non-implementation of things and the maltreatment of the Palestinians. That's what disturbs us. Ask him whether or not he can afford an intifada."

While the Cairo conference will proceed, he stated, Israel is responsible for "an erosion in the credibility of the peace process" that threatens to undermine the atmosphere at the event.

Consequently, Israel must take several concrete steps, or demonstrate its intention to do so, so as not to "adversely affect the regional cooperation in general and ... the prospects of success" of the conference.

Otherwise, he said, "I don't think anybody will talk to the Israelis or do any business with them. They are coming representing a government, a policy, that is negative, that is going against the trend of peace."

While individual Israeli businessmen will not be targeted, "the government certainly will be isolated," he said.

"Why should you discuss anything with a government that doesn't respect you or your rights?" he asked.

The steps Moussa called upon Israel to take immediately are: withdrawal from Hebron and from Zones B and C (which is still to be negotiated under Oslo 2); resuming final status talks; ceasing building settlements; and not expelling Palestinians from Jerusalem.

Israel is expelling Palestinians from Jerusalem?

"Absolutely. And building settlements and demolishing Arab houses in Jerusalem should stop. There are so many points. And the Israelis know that because we told them of that list," Moussa said.

On the flip side, "if they indeed do something from now until the conference, there will be an opening, and hopes will also be there, in the air at least. So

the Israelis should reconsider. ... They cannot have their cake and eat it."

EGYPT'S THREATS against a conference it itself is hosting have not gone over well in Washington. The Clinton Administration has been supremely disappointed in Cairo not only because Egypt's economy stands to gain from foreign investment but also because the US considers the now annual event - the first two were held in Casablanca and Amman - as vital to fostering regional contact.

According to Moussa, though, the Cairo event will demonstrate a "difference," because at it Israel will become "just another country."

"Before that, Israel was organizing and playing a role. Here it is just an invitee. ... Israel is not calling the shots as it was."

On Tantawi's comments last week, Moussa repeated his call for Israel to sign the NPT and said that as long as Israel retains a nuclear facility, it could put Egypt at risk and even target his country.

"If a bunch of extremists seize power in Israel, they can do so, of course," he said.

"I don't say that the present government would do it or the previous government would do it, but you can never tell. So, that is why we are asking for the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the area, including nuclear weapons."

"I am not talking about confrontation or wars. Because in my way of thinking, I believe that wars between Arabs and Israelis are over. We are engaged in a diplomatic struggle and impasse and crises. But no war."

"But I am talking about the nuclear weapons in Israel. It will call for an arms race of the same degree. If this happens, tension will rise. Then we are in for a new cycle of very serious and dangerous accusations that would lead to negative results by the tension."

On a newer flash point - Syria's recent troop movements around Mt. Hermon - Moussa professed to not being concerned about potential hostilities resulting from what he labeled "defensive" maneuvers.

"It is within territories that Israel has nothing to do with, and we are sure that Syria does not intend to wage war. We are sure of the Syrian desire to establish peace, according to the land-for-peace principle. We know that the business of war is not on the agenda of the Syrians. So we are not disturbed by this."

He also heaped scorn on Netanyahu's Lebanon First proposal for withdrawing the IDF from the security zone in exchange for security guarantees.

"Of course, this is a non-starter, [and] the whole meeting laughed when we heard this," he said of last week's Arab League ministerial meeting in Cairo.

"The foreign minister of Lebanon [Faris Bouze] told us in the Arab League that there was no formula, that they received no offer whatsoever. They read it [in the newspapers] as anybody else, as you and me. So did the Syrians - there was no offer given to the Syrians or the Lebanese. So, we read about it in the newspapers."

(Continued on Page 12)

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ly criticism



Darkness at the end of the tunnel

Nothing can be taken for granted when it comes to the Temple Mount, Bill Hutman writes

ISRAEL has declared war against the entire Islamic world by opening a new gate to the Hasmonean Tunnel, Sheikh Mohammed Hussein, director of Al-Aksa Mosque, warned this week.

"All the Islamic people are against what Israel has done. The entire world is against Israel," Hussein said during an interview in his Temple Mount office, which looks out onto the Dome of the Rock.

"This step is to declare war against the Palestinian people. It is an end to the peace process," Hussein said.

His statement, made mid-week before the fierce unrest broke out in Palestinian cities in Judea and Samaria, and in eastern Jerusalem, seemed at the time a slight exaggeration. His words now seem almost threatening, and prophetic.

At first glance, it did not appear the present government really did that much when it gave approval for the gate to be opened. The tunnel itself, which gives visitors a spectacular, underground walk through Jerusalem's history, had been completed several months ago, with the approval of former prime minister Shimon Peres. The much heralded "secret operation" carried out Monday night only involved a couple of workmen hired by the municipality cutting open a stone wall of the El-Omariya School, on the Via Dolorosa, and then putting in a metal doorway.

"It should have only taken about an hour," one source involved in the project said. "But you know how fix-it men are in this country," the source added jokingly.

Work continued on the metal door well into Tuesday afternoon. But as events unfolded at the week's end, it became clear once again that nothing can be taken for granted when it comes to Israeli-Palestinian relations and the Temple Mount. Government and city officials put forth strong arguments showing they had done nothing wrong with regard to the actual opening of the new tunnel gate on the Via Dolorosa.

Moslem property was not damaged and the Wakf was kept abreast of all work on the tunnel, they said.

The officials seemed to forget, however, that being right on sensitive matters in Jerusalem isn't always enough.

Only eight years ago, Israel for the first time opened a gate at the northern end of the 360-meter tunnel, at another spot on the Via Dolorosa. That time, however, they soon were forced to permanently close the gate, because of the fierce Palestinian opposition.

"With matters like this involving the Wakf and the Temple Mount, you have to be extra careful in how you proceed," said Amir Cheshin, former adviser on Arab Affairs to mayor Teddy Kollek.

"At the time, we hadn't proceeded with enough care," Cheshin said.

The failure, cited by Cheshin, to "keep in proper touch with the Wakf as we worked," isn't the only piece of history government officials have in the back of their minds these days. Exactly six years ago next week, rumors of plans by the extremist Jewish group, the Temple Mount Faithful, to put up a cornerstone for a new Temple on the Temple Mount sparked riots, in which police shot and killed some 17 Palestinians.

"Now we aren't talking about rumors, but about something that we can all see for ourselves," said Ziyad Abu Ziyad, a Palestinian Authority Council member from Jerusalem.

Ziyad's point was clear: Palestinians will take to the streets to protest the opening of the tunnel gate.

On Wednesday, Hussein led several hundred demonstrators from Al-Aksa Mosque through the Old City, to protest the government's move. But with police out in full force in the city in expectation of unrest, the demonstration was quickly quelled.

On the outskirts of Ramallah, however, where several thousand Palestinian protesters clashed with soldiers, the results were more bloody. Four Palestinians



A bird's-eye view of the Temple Mount area, showing the route of the Hasmonean Tunnel.

were killed when soldiers fired upon by the crowd returned fire. Six soldiers had been lightly to moderately wounded when Palestinian policemen in the crowd of protesters allegedly opened fire.

"We don't want confrontations between the security forces and the people," Hussein said. "But we are not in control of this. There is anger on the streets, and people will respond with anger."

THE GOVERNMENT saw things differently. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said the

unrest in the territories and eastern Jerusalem was being orchestrated by the PA, with the hopes it would force concessions at the negotiating table.

Hussein sat behind his desk, a large placard with a single Arabic word written in black letters overhead, "Allah," and continued to receive visitors in his office. Jamil Hamami, a leading Hamas figure in the territories, entered to discuss the situation with him.

Outside, "Bassam," one of the chief Wakf guards, called with his walkie-talkie to other guards manning the gates to the Temple

Mount, telling them to allow no more non-Moslem visitors inside, because noon prayer time was about to begin.

Israeli government officials have long noted uneasily that the Wakf operates as virtually an autonomous authority at the Temple Mount. The present government has inherited this "status quo" from previous governments, and appears hesitant to make any major changes.

"It was laughable when you think about what a big deal was made of closing down a couple of little offices affiliated with the PA

in Jerusalem, when on the Temple Mount the PA operates freely without us saying a word," one government source said.

Hussein was appointed by the PA to his post last year.

Hassan Tabboub, the PA minister of Religious Affairs, has an office on the Temple Mount. Last year, the PA also appointed its own mufti, to replace the Jordanian appointed mufti of Jerusalem.

Hussein declined to speak about the present tug-of-war between the PA and Jordan - which had complete authority

over Moslem holy places on the Temple Mount before the Oslo Accords were signed three years ago - on the grounds that the important issue these days was the tunnel.

"The Palestinian Authority and Jordanian officials will be meeting soon to work things out," he said.

Israeli officials have been watching this struggle between Jordan and the PA over Al-Aksa closely. After the signing of the peace agreement with Jordan, Israel publicly declared Jordan had a rightful claim to Moslem holy sites in the city. On the ground, however, despite the PA's openly violating the ban on its activity in Jerusalem by running many of the affairs at Al-Aksa, the government has refrained from taking any concrete action.

PA and PA appointed Wakf officials met repeatedly at the Wakf offices on the Temple Mount this week to decide on protest moves against the government. Mayor Ehud Olmert has pushed for government action to stop such activity, according to City Hall sources, but to no avail.

Some government leaders expressed dismay that the opening of Via Dolorosa Gate should cause such a ruckus. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who was acting prime minister much of the week, said he didn't understand the Palestinian anger, and that it wasn't justified. Similarly, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said the opening of the gate "is no reason for the intifada to be renewed," suggesting rather that the tunnel might become known as "The Peace Tunnel," because of the economic benefits both Israelis and Palestinians might reap from it.

"We have known tensions before in Jerusalem," Kahalani said, downplaying the significance of the unrest.

Kahalani discussed his "Peace Tunnel" idea with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a telephone conversation on Wednesday. Kahalani's spokesman said. After all the blood that was spilled this week over the tunnel, one might want to wish Kahalani were right, and peace were still somewhere near.

But as police brace for the expected massive Moslem prayer service on the Temple Mount this afternoon, it appears to be a good idea to prepare for other, less pleasant, possibilities.

As ancient walls are chipped, old passions become unleashed

THE archaeological tunnel which this week delineated the explosive fault line between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem had no archeological purpose when its excavation was begun some 25 years ago, and the fault line it then defined was between Jews alone.

The tunnel was initiated by the Religious Affairs Ministry after the Six Day War in order to expose the subterranean courses of the Temple Mount north of the Western Wall, an area it saw as suffused with holiness.

By law, excavations in archeological areas are the exclusive province of professional archeologists licensed by the government. In a deft act of turfmanship, however, the archeological authorities agreed to let the Religious Affairs Ministry have its dig as long as its functionaries did not attempt to interfere with the major excavation being conducted at the southern foot of the Temple Mount by Prof. Binyamin Mazar.

The ministry had previously attempted to declare the Temple Mount wall being exposed south of the Western Wall as a prayer area and to oust the archeologists.

Mazar's assistant, archeologist Meir Ben-Dov, was assigned to oversee the ministry dig on a part-time basis in order to legitimize it, but the effort was more of a mining operation than an archeological dig.

The Moslem authorities were concerned about the ministry tunnel along the Temple Mount wall, and not without cause. Two incidents during the Mazar dig along the southern wall had sounded alarm bells. Technion engineers had already measured a slight movement in part of the southern wall during the excavations.

Ben-Dov says the finding was based on an instrument misreading, but concrete buttresses were nevertheless put in place to support the wall. The Wakf was dismayed when Ben-Dov, working on the Mazar dig, probed two ancient tunnels at the southern foot of the Temple Mount beneath Al-Aksa Mosque in the area of the Hulda and Single gates, penetrating five meters into one and 30 meters into another, dating from the Second Temple period.

The Moslem authorities prevailed on the government to call

off Ben-Dov and the tunnels were resealed. They have remained so ever since.

Apart from their concerns about possible structural damage on the Mount itself, the Moslem authorities were offended by the notion of non-Moslems digging under, or even on the fringes of, a Moslem holy place; the fact that it was also a Jewish holy place was not a mitigating factor to them.

Nor was the excavation of Moslem palaces by Mazar that not even Islamic scholars had known existed a mitigating factor.

The Arabs were no less upset at the political implications of large-scale excavations in the Old City which undermined the extent of Israeli control in Jerusalem.

Although the ministry tunnel was a sideshow compared to the prodigious and enormously rewarding Mazar dig, the Wakf's fears would be realized there both in the physical and political-religious spheres.

The first stage of the ministry operation, in the early 1970s, consisted of clearing dirt from huge arched spaces just north of the Western Wall. These arches, according to archeologist Dan Bahat, had been built in the 13th-15th centuries by the Mamelukes to raise up to the level of the Temple Mount a street which crossed the vale bisecting the Old City.

North of these arches, the ministry's engineers drove a narrow tunnel alongside the Temple

Excavations around the Temple Mount have stirred Moslem anger since the reunification of the city, Abraham Rabinovich reports

Mount - the one involved in the current controversy - revealing the enormous stones in its lower courses. There was no penetration of the Mount itself or danger to holy places, but midway in the tunnel's progress large cracks appeared in one of the residential buildings in the Moslem Quarter, 12 meters above the excavation. The dig was halted until steel buttresses secured the building.

In 1982, one of the most dramatic Jewish-Arab confrontations in post-Six Day War Jerusalem occurred in the tunnel. It involved the late Rabbi Yehuda Meir Getz, the rabbi of the Western Wall, a colorful personality who would pray alone each morning inside the tunnel at a point opposite what he presumed to have been the Holy of Holies on the Temple Mount.

One day Arabs on the Mount heard banging from one of its cisterns. When they entered it, they found that Jewish workmen under Getz's supervision had partially broken through an ancient gateway, dubbed Warren's Gate, between the ministry tunnel and the innards of the Temple Mount itself.

In a subterranean scene witnessed by reporters, police separated the two sides, who were on the verge of blows.

Government officials, alert to

the explosiveness of the situation, hastily ordered the opening resealed, and it remains closed today.

This gate and the steps which had apparently led up from it had played an important role in Jewish life in the medieval period, according to some scholars.

After the Moslem conquest in the seventh century, Jews were permitted to return to Jerusalem, from which they had been barred by Roman and Byzantine rulers. However, they were not permitted back on the Mount.

The closest they could come to it, according to Bahat, was the covered staircase inside the gateway, which came to be known as *hama'ara*, or the cave.

Some believe this was the principal Jewish prayer area in Jerusalem for more than three centuries, until the arrival of the Crusaders.

After the Crusaders were defeated, the gateway was blocked by buildings. It was only then, in the 13th century, that Jews began praying at what came to be known as the Western Wall.

Work on the Religious Affairs Ministry tunnel continued intermittently over the years under the supervision of safety engineers to

avoid further danger to surface structures.

As it progressed, it proved to be of increasing archeological interest. A few years ago the tunnel, which had been called the "Western Wall Tunnel," was linked up with a water tunnel cut through the rock to the north, apparently in the Hasmonean period. This would lead to its becoming known as the "Hasmonean Tunnel." The water had been required in antiquity to clean the altar area on the Mount, where priests carried out sacrifices.

Bahat, formerly in charge of the Jerusalem District for the Antiquities Authority, contends that the finds here change conventional thinking about the history of the Temple Mount.

The Mount built around 970 BCE by King Solomon as a platform for the First Temple was roundish, conforming to the shape of the original hill.

This temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. Returnees from Babylonian exile half a century later built a new temple - the original Second Temple - maintaining the roundish shape of the Mount.

King Herod in the first century

BCE rebuilt the Temple and doubled the size of the Mount, now near-rectangular.

According to Bahat, it has become apparent from the tunnel excavation that there was still another Temple Mount built, in squarish shape, by the Hasmoneans a century before Herod.

Despite Moslem displeasure at the tunnel's existence, it aroused little public protest in the Arab sector until now since it was out of sight. Several years ago, the tunnel was opened to visitors entering from the Western Wall plaza.

The authorities sought ways of opening an exit at the northern end of the narrow tunnel so visitors do not have to double back some 380 meters to the entrance-way.

The Sisters of Zion, whose convent on the Via Dolorosa lies near the tunnel's northern end, were approached, but they understandably declined to become involved in a politically sensitive issue.

The Arab owner of a souvenir shop on the Via Dolorosa agreed to the opening of a tunnel exit on his property, according to Israeli

sources, but he backed down for fear of Arab retaliation.

Preparations were then made to exit onto a public space on the street itself, but Likud prime minister Yitzhak Shamir was persuaded that it was not worth stirring a hornet's nest for.

Finally, a staircase was built up from the tunnel to a point alongside the Omariya School on the Via Dolorosa, where only a non-descript stone wall separated it from the street.

This week, with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert wielding one of the sledgehammers, the wall was pierced and a doorway fitted into the opening.

Ben-Dov says the mistake in opening the exit was not merely in the timing but in the essence since, in the political circumstances, it was clearly unacceptable to the Arabs to have the tunnel disgorge its visitors, many of them Israeli, into the heart of the Moslem Quarter.

"The Wakf was right in asking back then that I stop my dig under Al-Aksa, and the government was right in supporting them," said Ben-Dov this week. "I think that opening the tunnel exit was very unwise."

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How goodly are your tabernacles, O Israel

WENDY ELLIMAN

WE Jews have been disliked so consistently for so long by so many that it comes as a major jolt to find ourselves the focus of intense love. An intense love, moreover, that pours out of thousands of people from over 100 nations.

The knee-jerk Jewish reaction to all this may be skepticism, suspicion or at very least uneasiness, but there can be no doubt about the genuineness of the love and support flowing from more than 6,000 Christians arriving in Israel this week for the 17th annual Feast of Tabernacles.

"God promises to bless those who bless Israel," says Myrna Middleton, a South Florida Christian who has come to the feast every year since 1983. "God is calling His people [the Jews] to come home to the land of Israel, and he has commissioned Christians to help them... so that His plan and His purposes for Israel and the Jewish people come to fulfillment. That is His No. 1 priority."

This year's Feast of Tabernacles, which convenes in Jerusalem from today to October 5, is the largest ever held, with more people coming from more countries than ever before.

"In the early years, we had to push the event to make it known," says Jan Willem van der Hoeven, spokesman for Jerusalem's International Christian Embassy, which hosts the event. "Now, we scarcely even advertise it. We send out a video of feast highlights that gets shown everywhere, in the smallest of church fellowships in the most remote of places. People see the beauty and the rejoicing, and they come."

They come from North and Latin America, Eastern and Western Europe, the Middle and Far East, Australia and Asia. Sizable groups are coming in this year from Fiji and from Finland, Indonesia and Albania. There are representatives, for the first time, from Cambodia, Cuba, Bhutan, Rwanda, Madagascar, Myanmar and Guinea-Bissau.

A delegation of over 700 is coming from Brazil. Catholic Father Paddy Moynehan is bringing a mixed group of Catholics and Protestants from Northern Ireland and Eire to love Israel in a humble spirit. Lebanese, Jordanian and Egyptian Christian Zionists are coming. Her majesty the queen of



Christians display their solidarity with Israel in last year's march.

Lesotho is already here.

And one of the feast's regulars, a lady from Nagaland in northeastern India, left her home in the shadow of the Himalayas several days ago to start her 72-hour journey to Israel - a trip that begins on foot with a lengthy trek to the nearest road.

The fact that the cost of getting to and joining in the week-long festivities represents close to a year's income for some of those taking part does not deter them. At a time when tourism is faltering badly and Jerusalem hotels have been rattling with rooms left empty by cautious Jewish visitors, the Christians are filling the city.

Before they leave next week, they will contribute between \$10 million and \$15m. to the country's tourism revenues, occupy over 5,000 hotel rooms, ride in more than 100 tour buses, and receive a massive injection of faith.

"You'll be in awe!" says van der Hoeven's wife, Ellen, a 15-year veteran of the feast. "I've never seen anything like what happens here during the feast."

Who are these people and why do they come?

Jan Willem van der Hoeven explains: "From Israel's point of view, there are two types of Christian. There are the organized historical ecclesiastical churches,

and there are the individuals both inside and outside the historical churches. The people who come to the feast belong to this second group. They are Christians whose allegiance is more to the Lord and His word than to the church. They know what the Bible says. They read the prophecies of Isaiah and Zechariah, and they know what the Lord plans for the people of Israel."

The feast's program this year reflects that pure and literal reading of the Bible. As well as prayer meetings and communion, the Jerusalem March, a lunar eclipse viewed from Qumran and addressed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, the feast is scheduling a mass solidarity rally in Hebron with the town's Jewish community. The shofar will be sounded and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon has been invited to speak.

"This is religious, not political," says van der Hoeven. "You have only to read the Bible. Hebron is the first place God gave Abraham. It was the first capital of Israel. God gave it eternally to the Jews. Yes, I know that Palestinians like Hanan Ashrawi scream that we're political, but theirs is a double hypocrisy. They call us political because we believe in the Bible, and they want to stop us following the Bible - while they use the church to issue statements that have nothing to do with the Bible, and everything to do with harming Israel."

The organized church, explains van der Hoeven, absorbs the coloring of its congregants. "Take, for example, the Anglican Church here: it doesn't have many Jewish Protestant members," he says wryly, "but it has a lot of Palestinian Protestants. And so many of the local churches have taken on a Palestinian coloring."

"This is something Israelis don't understand. They don't understand that the churches here are hotbeds of Palestinian sentiment and campaign actively for the Palestinian cause. They don't understand that they often use the robes of Christ to help the Palestinian cause and advise the pope not to visit Israel. In their briefings to the clergy, there is an anti-Zionist, antisemitic flavor. Right under Israel's nose, the churches are often vehicles of anti-Israel sentiment working to the detriment of what God has promised for His people."

The way that van der Hoeven and his fellow Christians read the Bible persuades them that the prophecy of all nations turning against Israel is soon to be fulfilled. Even the support of the US looks less certain, they feel. But by that time, they plan to have inspired the remnant, the few people in each nation who Zechariah says will continue to love Israel and God's chosen people.

"There are millions of true Christians out there," says van der Hoeven. "The numbers who come to the feast are a clear indication. When the US falls away and Israel stands alone, we'll be able to say: 'You're not alone. You have 130 million Christians behind you!'"

Lesotho's dowager queen

QUEEN" conjures a vision of the British monarch, indomitably smiling in a coat, hat and shoes of toning pastel shades. "African queen," if more accurate, has unfortunate echoes of Humphrey Bogart.

Her Majesty the Queen Mamohato Tabitha Seiso fits neither picture.

Dowager queen of Lesotho in southern Africa, she is, despite her traditional African robes, more in the image of the Christian queens of the early centuries.

On her first visit to Israel this week at the head of a 10-person delegation, she is spending her days in prayer on a schedule of devotion that would make even a yeshiva student blanch.

"We pray from 9 in the morning until 10 at night," she says. "We pray for our own nations and for each other's, and we pray for one another."

This weekend, Mamohato will move directly from this week-long prayer meeting into the Feast of Tabernacles festivities.

"I'm very excited, both about seeing the holy places and about what will happen during the feast," she said in an interview. "I've heard a lot about it, and I hope to take home to Lesotho an important spiritual message for my people."

The timing of the visit is key for the queen, who has been mourning her husband King Mosheshoe II, killed in a road accident last February. He is succeeded by their 33-year-old son Mohato Letsie Seiso, for whom the queen has been acting as regent.

Her faith, she indicated, has carried her through the loss of her husband and of a daughter who, with her father, is now residing in



Queen Mamohato Tabitha Seiso in Jerusalem this week.

heaven. "I expected Israel to look more biblical," she says. "Of course, I know there has been development since Bible times, but I thought more of the old would be preserved. In many ways,

Jerusalem reminds me of Lesotho, which is also dry and mountainous. I'm excited by what I've seen of Israel's irrigation and agricultural methods, and I think we can learn a great deal from Israel." W.E.

Christian love makes some Jews uneasy

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE message from the thousands of marching Christians is clear: "We love you Israel." The question is: Does Israel love them?

Most of the marchers are evangelical Christians, whose support of Israel and the Jewish people is based upon a belief in the literal and complete truth of their scriptures, which include the Hebrew Bible and God's promises to Abraham.

Their understanding is that the second coming of the messiah will be when the Jews are gathered from the four corners of the earth," says Dr. Bernard Resnikoff, former director of the Israel office of the American Jewish Committee and one of the leading figures in interfaith activities in Israel.

Resnikoff recalls that one embassy leader told Resnikoff that the Christians of the Jewish people had more in common with the haredi Jews of Mea She'arim than with the modern Orthodox of Rehavia. Many haredim, on the other hand, do not differentiate between the Christians who come to show their support for Israel and the Jewish people, and other Christians who have persecuted Jews over the centuries.

Israel Eichel, a spokesman for

the Belz Hassidim and the haredi community in general, admits that although he is a Jerusalem resident, he is unfamiliar with the identity or beliefs of the group which marches through the city every year.

"Everyone who identifies with Israel, with the Jews or Jerusalem - as an individual - is welcome. But when you talk about Christians as Christians, that's another matter. We have a very long account with Christianity and it can't be canceled by a solidarity march or a demonstration of support," Eichel says.

On the other hand, he says, it is far better that they march for us than against us.

Eichel sees an irony in a Jewish belief based upon the ingathering of the Jewish people. In the past, he says, Christians had argued that the dispersal of the Jews and the Diaspora was the proof of Christianity. Now, he says, they are saying that the fact that we are here shows the proof of their belief.

Menachem Brod, the spokesman for the Habad Hassidim in Israel, believes that if the support is sincere and is not a screen for missionary intentions, then it is not

only welcome, but it could be an indication that the time of the coming of the messiah is drawing near.

"If it is pure love of Israel, then it is fine," Brod says. "It even may indicate the first budding of the fulfillment of the biblical prophecy that in the end of days, all the nations of the world will come to the aid of Israel. But this is only on condition that they have no other aims."

One haredi Jew who is familiar with the Feast of Tabernacles is Judy Perlman, an official of Yad Le'achim, a haredi anti-missionary organization. She has made a point of attending Feast of Tabernacles events.

She says Yad Le'achim has no problem with Christians visiting Jerusalem as long as they respect our religion and don't carry out missionary activity. When it comes to the Feast of Tabernacles, she says she has mixed signals. On the one hand, the organizers tell the participants to refrain from carrying out any missionary activities, but on the other hand, the participants often feel that God has told them otherwise, she says.

"They've told not to, but they hand out leaflets all over the place," Perlman says.

MOUSSA

(Continued from Page 10)

The Palestinian track is no

laughing matter to Moussa. He called the Netanyahu government's approval last week of 4,000 new housing units in existing settlements a "hazardous

business." At the same time, he denied that he was singling out the new premier for harsh treatment and said he also condemned settlement expansion under the Rabin and Peres governments.

In the interview, Moussa took up the Palestinians' cause, stating adamantly that in any final status agreement, Israel must both withdraw completely to the June 4, 1967, lines - "absolutely; no compromise" - and abandon all claim to its settlements.

Settlers in the territories could remain, under the sovereignty of a Palestinian state, just as Arabs live within Israel, but under no circumstances would settlements be incorporated into Israel, he said.

He also faulted PA Chairman Yasser Arafat for capitulating to Israeli demands to close three PA offices in Jerusalem.

"Now the Palestinians are advised not to give any more concessions until or unless they are matched with concessions or steps on the Israeli side," Moussa said.

He called this "very fair" and said such a scenario was not overly ambitious.

"This is not a maximalist position. To establish a Palestinian state is not a maximalist position. It is a position that is sine qua non for peace to be established. Without full withdrawal and establishment of a Palestinian state, I do not think peace will be there," he said.

Moussa is asked whether Egypt's heated public pronouncements are meant to showcase Cairo's role in the Arab world, and whether public pressure on Israel would be effective in attaining strategic goals.

"Our centrality doesn't need assurances every now and then," he stated.

"I am not involved in pressure tactics. We would have hoped that the Israeli public itself would pressure its government into cooperating in peace and into returning to the negotiating table."

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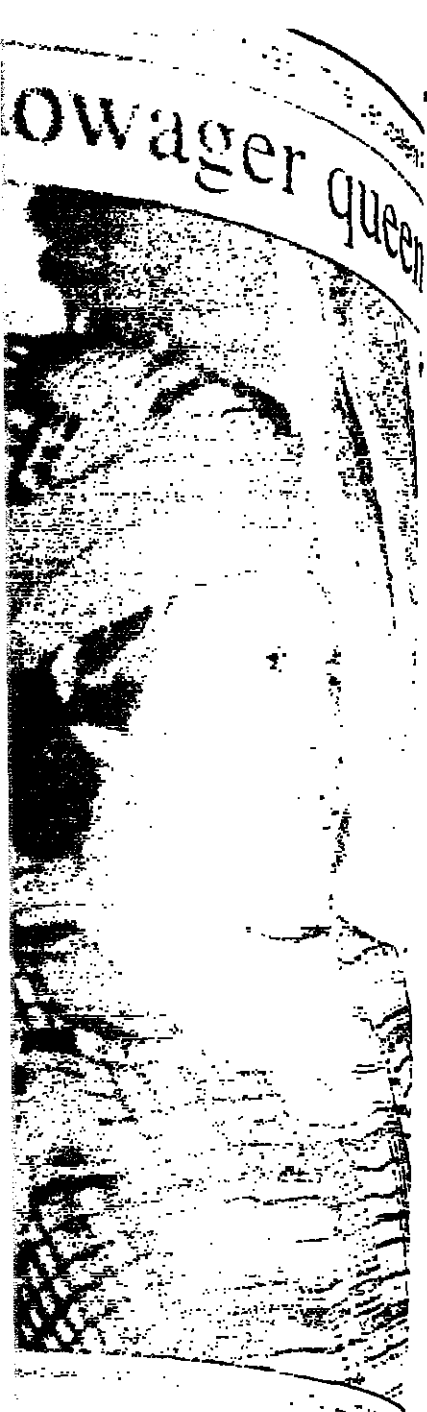
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New road policy is contrary to Israel's own interests

FULSOME praise was heaped in the media on the new Gush Etzion road when it was opened some three weeks ago. The modern no-exit four-kilometer "tunnel road," which sets out to link the Gush with Jerusalem, cuts travel time to Hebron by almost half.

The longest tunnel and the highest pillars of any road in the country are sights on a scale hitherto unknown here. This time, the planners made a successful effort to preserve the beauty of the landscape.

Those, and they are the great majority of Israelis, who believe that the way to alleviate the conflict with the Palestinians is through separation, will see it as a blessing that settlers from Gush Etzion and beyond won't need to pass Arab towns or villages on the way to Jerusalem. From their point of view, all is well with the whole project - the planning, the architecture and the construction, as well as the concept.

The only problem is that West Bank Palestinians are forbidden to use the road. When this information appeared in the press, I thought there might be some mistake. After all, it is no secret that the settlers are only a small part of the West Bank population.

GUEST COLUMNIST
DAN LEON

To make sure, I asked a young soldier at the southern entrance checkpoint. He told me that according to his orders, all those with an orange identity card, that is all West Bank Palestinians, are indeed turned back, whether or not they have a permit to enter Jerusalem. They must take the road to Jerusalem via Bethlehem and Beit Jala.

A B'Tselem representative traveling with UNRWA officials from Hebron to Jerusalem was turned back from the tunnel road by a soldier who told them that the road is "for Israelis only."

Understandably, B'Tselem wrote to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pointing out that such discrimination "contravenes principles of international law, justice and morality."

The soldier with whom I talked at the checkpoint made his explanations in a matter-of-fact way as if the "Israelis only" policy was the most natural thing in the world. This brought to my mind that years ago the peace movement had demonstrated under the slogan "The occupation corrupts." Whatever criteria one uses to evaluate this sort of home-grown Israeli practice of discrimination, and whatever arguments are used to justify it, it arouses repulsive associations.

At the recent official ceremonial opening of the road with the participation of Minister Ariel Sharon and his predecessor Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, it was said that the road would be open to all. Local Arab representatives were even invited to take part in the ceremony (but didn't do so). Up to now, Israel's declared policy has apparently been that roads built by Israel in the West Bank are for all its residents.

SO FAR, the protests by human rights and peace organizations have aroused limited interest. As the IDF explained, the decision was taken for reasons of "security and convenience"; Palestinians were banned "in order to avoid placing another checkpoint on a road into Jerusalem," in the words of an IDF spokesperson. Peace Now demonstrators pointed out that the road going south from Jerusalem is open to all, and if the road was closed from the south for real security reasons, the road

should be closed from both directions. (This is what happened yesterday during the fighting.)

People unable to grasp the wider significance of their actions can't be left to decide on their own on what they see as merely "security" measures. In this situation, since a West Bank Palestinian with a permit to enter Jerusalem will do so in any case, the only "security" argument we are given rests upon the "inconvenience" of adding one checkpoint. Can anyone really believe that this vindicates the decision?

If the policy was determined at the political level, and during negotiations on the peace process, this is a matter of the utmost gravity. Surely, whichever government is in power, official Israeli policy in territories under its control cannot condone such crude and blatant discrimination against Palestinian residents.

Or can it? The first sentence of Barbara Tuchman's classic, *The March of Folly*, reads: "A phenomenon noticeable throughout history regardless of place or period is the pursuit by governments of policies contrary to their own interests... Why do holders of high office so often act contrary to the way reason points and enlightened self-interest suggests?"

Dry Bones



There's much meaning in a name

BADR-96. That is the code name the Egyptians gave their recent military exercises, headlined on page 1 of the September 5-11 issue of Cairo's English-language *Al-Ahram Weekly* as "Biggest War Games Ever."

It was a three-stage operation: one on Egypt's border with Sudan and in the Red Sea sector; another on the country's northern coast and in the Western Desert; the third, "covering the banks of the Suez Canal and the Sinai Desert, [was] the biggest and most important."

Naturally, in that direction sits the prospective Zionist enemy.

VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

Jews' future here.

Colleagues and friends, even some who share my view of Jewish and Eretz Yisrael history, have chastised me as "atavistic" or "quaint" for stubbornly using my people's and country's historical terminology.

Few of them have similarly chastised Anwar Sadat or Hafez Assad for their "every last grain of sand" insistence; Hanan Ashrawi for her "descended from the first Christians" boast; Yasser Arafat and the others for their various absurdities virtually suggesting: "In the beginning God the Palestinian created Palestine and the Palestinians."

Our friend Dry Bones, aka Kirschner, tells the story of the budding journalist who was fired because, among other things, he called Judea and Samaria "Judea and Samaria" and failed to inform the public that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is a "hard-liner."

"From then on [Mohammed's] revelations [in Medina, whence he had fled from Mecca two years earlier after being violently rejected by most of his fellow Qurayshis] were very different from those of Mecca..."

The victory "made possible a reaction against the Jews and ultimately also the Christians, who were now accused of having falsified their own scriptures in order to conceal the prophecies of Mohammed's advent... Mohammed was now quite clearly preaching a new religion [which] was more strictly Arab..."

"In March 628, at Hudaibiya, Mohammed and the Meccans signed a 10-year truce.

But in January 630, Lewis writes, "the murder of a Muslim by a Meccan for what appears to have been a purely private difference of opinion served as *casus belli* for [Mohammed's] final attack and conquest of Mecca."

Robert Payne writes: "By sabotage, by deceit, by the terror of Mohammed's name, the city had been weakened; and it fell into his hands... like a ripe plum" (*The History of Islam*, Dorset Press, 1959).

What message do you think the Egyptians are trying to send through "BADR-96" nearly 15 years after we gave them every last grain of the sand they had demanded?

THE PLO's "minister for Jerusalem affairs," Faisal Husseini, recently spoke in plainer terms, to which we ought to attend. But for the fact that he spoke in English, his remark would no doubt have been dismissed as "for internal consumption."

On September 9, an interviewer on Damascus Television's English-language *Focus* interview program asked Husseini to define the boundaries of "Palestine."

Dr. Joseph Lerner of Jerusalem, co-director of IMRA/Independent Media Review and Analysis, heard the program.

He reports that Husseini said all "Palestinians" agree that the country's "just boundaries" are the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Husseini added that realistically, whatever can be obtained now should be accepted.

But subsequent events, perhaps in the next 10 or 20 years, would present an opportunity to realize those "just boundaries." Shades of Hudaibiya. Only this time we have been forewarned.

A time to rejoice in our fragility

EACH of the three major festivals is identified with a concept central to Judaism - freedom, Torah, and rejoicing.

Freedom is indelibly linked to Pessah because of the exodus from Egypt, and Torah is linked to Shavuot because of the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. But when it comes to Succot, why does the Torah emphasize it specifically this holiday in which "you shall rejoice," and why does the Prayer Book refer to this festival as "the time of our rejoicing?"

This question may seem surprising. After all, when the festival arrives, who doesn't love to sit (and even sleep) underneath the stars? But with only a slightly different focus, Succot can be explained as a festival in somber harmony with the High Holy Days.

The arrival of Elul before Rosh Hashana ushers in not only the daily blast of the shofar, but also the 27th Psalm, "To David, the Lord is my light and my salvation," which is recited twice daily until the last day of Succot, thereby linking the entire period.

The connection can also be seen in the fact that the service of Hoshana Rabba, the seventh day of Succot, is structured to parallel aspects of the Yom Kippur service, including the liturgical chants, and encourages all officiants and congregants to wear the white Yom Kippur kitel.

Furthermore, what's so cheerful about leaving one's home and spending seven days in a cold, fragile hut? True, the Jewish people have turned this into a beloved experience, especially because of the children. But from a purely objective point of view, no one would consider an "eviction" from one's home a joyful experience!

Even the Four Species are actually a testament to the frailty of the vegetative world: the willows are the first to go, and all too often brown spots appear on the etrog before the festival is over; even the spine of the palm frond begins to show signs of wear and tear by the end of the week.

And if this isn't enough evidence, all we have to do is turn to the extra Prophets reading on the Shabbat of Hol Hamo'ed Succot, the Scroll

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHILOMO RISKIN

of Ecclesiastes: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. What profit has a man of all his labor when he labors under the sun? One generation passes away, and another generation comes: but the earth abides forever."

Of all the possible choices, why introduce the words of Kohelet into the festival of "our rejoicing"? Unless, that is, Succot is not so joyous after all.

Perhaps a Talmudic passage in Tractate *Brachot* can teach us the true meaning of the joy of Succot. There we are given a formulation of the steps needed to grapple with the evil inclination. The first measure is to learn Torah. If that doesn't work, the *Sh'ma* should be recited. And if the *Sh'ma* doesn't work one should contemplate the day of his death.

Now if the order of the advice tells us that the last suggestion is the foolproof method, why not turn to it immediately?

The truth is that such somber contemplation may be too powerful a medicine, whose side-effects may lead to despair. Hence our Sages suggest milder doses to begin with. Only if these do not work do we turn to the third prescription, remembering the day of death.

I'd like to suggest that the period from Rosh Hashana through Yom Kippur through Succot parallels the basic steps of the Sages in defeating the evil inclination.

Rosh Hashana is linked to Torah. On Rosh Hashana, God looked into the Torah and created the world, as the Holy Zohar teaches. On a simple level this means that Torah must precede creation because the essential purpose of the creation is Torah; because through Torah, we are divinely charged to transform and perfect the world.

Moreover, the Rosh Hashana prayer is suffused with verses from the Pentateuch, the Psalms and the Prophets, a profound learning experience teaching us the fundamental philoso-

phy of Judaism: *Malchuyot, Zichronot and Shofarot* - creation, revelation and redemption. The shofarot emphasize the fact that it is by means of God's Torah revealed at Sinai (amid the sounds of the shofar) that the nation of Israel will eventually repair the world by teaching ethical monotheism.

Yom Kippur can be considered from any number of perspectives, but given that the words with which we end the fast are a tumultuous Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One, it could be said that the entire purpose of this day is to bring us to an inner state of wholeness.

But what if we went through Rosh Hashana (Torah) and Yom Kippur (*Sh'ma*) and still felt like failures? Not to despair because we still have Succot, the foolproof method. The *succa* speaks to every Jew - religious, secular, masorti, haredi; everyone can relate to this fragile hut, a metaphor for the fragility of our lives.

Now all the symbolic aspects of Succot, from the temporary nature of the *succa* itself to the slow-but-sure decay of the Four Species, to the sobriety of Kohelet all reminding us that in this world we are merely guests stopping by for a night. Hence we would best dedicate our lives to ideals of permanence, to God and Torah, continuity and compassion.

But realizing the fragility of our lives should not lead to despair. On the contrary, only from the perspective of a fragile *succa* unable to withstand even a casual rain-storm, do we truly come to realize the importance of every day and every experience. Only when we understand that we are living in the shadow of death do we begin to savor every moment.

Every minute is a gift from God and must be lived to the fullest. Hence Succot has not only given us the final weapon in our battle against the evil impulse, but it teaches us how to truly live joyously, how to see life in proper perspective, how to enjoy every moment and every possibility.

Shabbat Shalom and Hag Sameah

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Our appeal for contributions to the Toy Fund to help purchase school books and supplies for needy youngsters has brought in more donations. However, it's just not enough to help with all the requests that are still coming in.

This is the time of year our thoughts turn to scholarships for university students.

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The revival of the Jewish juggler

TOSSING balls, rings, bean bags, fiery torches and rubber chickens; more and more Israelis are now mastering the art of juggling. A pastime that has deep Jewish roots, juggling is a highly respected Jewish entertainment that goes back to ancient times. It was first mentioned in Jewish sources in the context of Succot during the Second Temple period.

Talk to any juggler and you will hear about its innumerable mind/body benefits. "Juggling is a skill that helps develop ambidexterity, dexterity, enhanced right brain/left brain function, increased attention span," says Raphael Harris, a professional juggler who recently organized a one-day juggling festival in Jerusalem.

"Juggling is taught in corporate workshops because it is an excellent training tool for patience, coordination, and learning to deal with failures," he adds.

Harris recently wrote an article for *Juggler's World*, tracing the Jewish sources of juggling.

One of the most famous Jewish jugglers in ancient times was Rabbi Shimon Ben Gamliel. The head of the Sanhedrin (first century CE) did a virtuoso act during the all-night water-drawing celebrations during the intermediate days of Succot. It was at this time that water was drawn from the Silwan Pool and brought to the Temple in a ritual blessing for rain.

The esteemed Rabbi's skills are described in the Talmud, Tractate Succot: "He knew how to stand on his fingers, and he took eight torches which he threw into the air and caught, without letting any one touch the other."

The feats of three other Jewish

The art of tossing and balancing everything from rubber chickens to sticks of fire goes back a long way. Now Israelis are increasingly getting into the act, reports Sharon Kanon

sages and jugglers are also described in the Mishna. Levi bar Sissa (150-220 CE), juggled eight knives before Judah Hanassi. One of his students during his later years in Babylonia was Samuel bar Abba (180-275 CE), an outstanding physician and expert in astronomy, as well as Talmud. He eventually headed the famous academy at Nehardea. Apparently Samuel learned more than Talmudic law from his worthy teacher. He perfected a juggling-like act in which he manipulated eight cups of wine without spilling a drop. The Persian king, comments Rashi, was impressed when he saw the act which seemed to foster good relations between them.

Another intrepid juggler in Babylonia was Rav Abaye (280-339 CE) who, we are told, mastered the risky business of juggling eight eggs. Head of the academy at Pumbedita as well as a successful farmer, he also juggled his jobs, studying and teaching all day, and irrigating his fields and vineyards at night.

The word "juggler" is the English form of the Latin *joculator*, *jester*, and the old French *jogleour*, one who jokes. It was often used interchangeably with prestidigitator and legerdemain, sleight of hand.

One source says that it can be traced back to the Egyptians

whose magicians tried to undo the miracles of Moses.

In *Hocus Pocus's Anatomy of Legerdemain*, 1634, there is mention of "the greatest juggler in England." During the 16th and 17th centuries, itinerant Jewish doctors were also jugglers. Juggling acts at traditional weddings, in keeping with the mitzva "to bring joy to the bride and groom" go back almost 2,000 years. Rav Samuel bar Rav Yitzhak (300-370 CE) was known to dance and juggle "with three myrtle branches" before the bride even when he became elderly. According to legend, when he died, a column of fire separated him from the people. It is said that he gained this honor, granted to only one or two in a generation, because of his habitual mitzva of dancing at weddings.

The wedding scene in the movie *Fiddler on the Roof* gives a variation of the mitzva. Four wedding guests balance bottles of wine on their heads.

Juggling has long been associated in Jewish tradition with joy. It was when "he was very happy" that R. Ben Gamliel did his juggling act. A Gemara in Ta'anit, 22A, relates the incident that when Rav Beroka and Elijah the Prophet were walking in a crowded market, Beroka asked which people would go to "Olam Haba" (the

next world). Elijah pointed to two men. Beroka asked the people what they do. "Whenever we see people unhappy, we cheer them up," they answered.

AND TODAY, "Juggling is, excuse the pun, catching on," said Moti Krauthamer, a CNN news editor. "Ten years ago, Israelis thought it was weird. I used to juggle in Sacher Park once a week with a small group of jugglers. People would ask, 'Are you a clown? Are you in a circus?'"

"I started as a teenager," said the 33-year-old former New Yorker. "When I was in high school, I used to go to Wall Street during lunch hour and meet a group of investment bankers who juggled to relax."

"Juggling is distinctive. You can learn it. It is a good learning skill. You have to do the first step before you can do the second, before you can do the third. It is like any big problem. It looks complicated but if you break it down, you can tackle it."

Almost in the same juggling league as the venerable sages is 22-year-old Joseph Rosenberg. Rosenberg, a musician taking time out to study in a Bnei Brak yeshiva, tosses five torches into the air and catches them - a virtuoso act the 1989 International Association of Junior Jugglers champ now

does at weddings. Originally from Oswego, New York, Rosenberg started juggling when he was 12. "I bought a copy of the book *Juggling for the Complete Klutz*. It came with three bean bags."

"Juggling attracts people of all ages, from age five to the elderly," says Reva Amir, owner of Jug, the Center of Juggling in Israel, a Tel Aviv juggling supplies store which she opened last year. The 25-year-old entrepreneur is so busy with the business that she had to suspend her studies at Tel Aviv University. The shop not only sells all of the paraphernalia including juggling balls, bean bags, diabolo (two sticks with a yo-yo), even stilts and unicycles - it also offers classes. Youngsters are in the majority.

"The shop is a bit of home for some kids," says Amir. "Parents are happy the kids are doing something that is not harmful, exercise that is good for the body and good for the soul. You only think of the rhythm when you juggle," said Amir. "It is like meditation. It clears the mind."

Scott Seltzer, formerly of Tucson, Arizona, another Jewish juggler, used his computer experience to gain a Web site on Internet. The site includes drawings of juggling tricks and Seltzer's calling card, in Hebrew and English - "Suspicious Objects Juggler." It also shows a picture of him juggling in a Roman restaurant in the Old City of Jerusalem. You might be lucky to catch a spontaneous juggling act by Seltzer on the Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall in Jerusalem. "It is more lucrative than you think. People appreciate my professional act."

All kinds of people are caught up in the juggling revival - professionals, Habadniks, university stu-



A juggler dazzles passersby with fire. (Dana Sternau/Israel Sun)

dents, teenagers, religious, secular, Russian circus performers, young Ethiopians. Great camaraderie.

The places to meet, watch, and learn from the juggling aficionados is every Thursday evening at the Hineni Heritage Center on King George Street, or Friday afternoon at The Jug, 22 Sheinkin Street, in Tel Aviv. The rollerblade

crowd makes way for the jugglers at the site of the Dolphinarium, now called Pacha, every Tuesday after 5 o'clock until winter.

Don't be shy. Don't worry about being a klutz. Juggling is fun. Jugglers are always willing to teach a beginner. Rosenberg promises that "Jugglers are very sharing people."

BRULIK by **DOSH**

With a wing and a prayer

WHILE tens of thousands of Israelis were caught in pre-Yom Kippur traffic congestion last Sunday, the prime minister's political trouble shooter Dore Gold avoided the highway pitfalls and took to the sky by courtesy of King Hussein. Following his return from a visit to London, the Jordanian monarch asked to be updated on regional developments, and realizing that the religiously observant Gold would be anxious to get home in time for Kol Nidre, sent his own personal helicopter to

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

round-trip him from Jerusalem to Amman. Gold was also treated to a royal lunch at which other guests included Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabari.

TALKING OF flying. El Al's oldest frequent flyer is Iranian-born art dealer and antiquarian Avraham Abba Yehudain, 97, who several times a year wings his way between London and Tel Aviv. Active in his family-owned business, the straight-backed, white-bearded Yehudain with his flowing mane of white hair looks unamplified like a kosher Father Christmas. London-Tel Aviv is not his only route. He attends international fairs and likes to visit his six offspring who reside in four countries, including Israel.

ANOTHER FREQUENT flyer is British philanthropist Leslie Levens, currently on his 50th visit here. Actively involved in many organizations which support causes and institutions both in the UK and Israel, Levens this week recalled that he came here in 1956 to open a hospital in Beersheba. That might not be especially unusual but for the fact that he got married in England on March 18, 1956, and on March 19, he was in Israel with his bride so that they could attend the hospital opening. Well, that's one way of making a honeymoon memorable. Levens is also an ardent supporter of the Haifa Technion.

EVEN THOUGH it may take some years before his country's embassy moves to Jerusalem, US Ambassador Martin Indyk is irresistibly drawn to the capital, so much so that instead of attending High Holy Day services close to his home in Herzliya Pimach he spent Yom Kippur in the company of congregants of the Jerusalem Great Synagogue.

LAMENTING the effects of assimilation on Jewish demography, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau in his Yom Kippur sermon noted that other than Israel, there are only two places in the world in which the Jewish population is increasing - Canada and Germany.

ALTHOUGH HE had to run off to an urgent committee meeting at the

Knesset, National Religious Party MK Avner Shaki stayed long enough at the Ramot Shapira 25th anniversary dinner to finish the main course and deliver a speech praising both the work of the informal educational center and the vision of its founder and president Dr. Ya'acov Vainstein. The well-attended affair at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel was underwritten by philanthropist Sam Sebbah who has a habit of quietly picking up the tab for educational and human welfare causes.

The British-raised Vainstein, who came on aliyah in 1948, is a former director of the Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration, and the founder and first director general of its Department of Torah Education and Culture for the Diaspora. Long before it was fashionable, he traveled to India, Morocco and Yemen to make contact with the Jews of those countries, many of whom he brought to Israel.

AT A tribute dinner honoring celebrated educator Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz on the 30th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of the Steinsaltz Talmud and marking the publication of the 30th volume, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky took time out from meetings at his office down the street from the Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza to express his own appreciation for the man who befriended him soon after his arrival in Israel and who has done so much to restore the spiritual heritage of Russian Jewry.

In the 10 years since he had left Russia, said Sharansky, he constantly debated with himself whether to go back there at all, whereas Steinsaltz travels to Russia every month to supervise the work of his Mekor Haim institutions. "Even a minister can learn," said Sharansky in reference to the inscription which Steinsaltz had written in the volume presented to him. But before exiting, he had a warm embrace for former government colleague Professor Ya'acov Ne'eman who recently resigned as justice minister.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who also made a brief appearance at the dinner, made a bedtime for Ne'eman's table and sat there until it was his turn to speak. Referring to the Hasmonean Tunnel riots, Olmert commented on the nay-sayers who while praising any given measure in itself, declare the timing to be wrong. "When is the timing ever right?" he asked.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 First-day cover (3-4)
 - 5 Cats, for example, can be so melodious (7)
 - 9 One getting on sold out to better half (7)
 - 10 Mawkish girl, called into garden, gets nothing in return (7)
 - 11 Opens late, perhaps, for these graceful jumpers (9)
 - 12 Steer car right into sleazy bar (5)
 - 13 One of 11 in eastern country (5)
 - 15 Defender of a game point (9)
 - 17 Corrupt, bad hedonists (9)
 - 19 Brand carried by conspirator chap (5)
 - 22 Termini used by some Europeans (5)
- DOWN**
- 23 Emaciated, toothless what's-his-name? (9)
 - 25 In the pay of the hawk, gratuity is included in dispatch (7)
 - 26 Aintree casualty a novice? (7)
 - 27 Actor's assistant with his back to the wall? (7)
 - 28 Carrots rotting here, Dad (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Some film of infantry era (7)
 - 2 Garden flower to die out in Georgia (7)
 - 3 Crack up in Essex tolerated? (5)
 - 4 If upside down, fit another hearth (9)
 - 5 Silent private secretary has parotitis (5)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Mowed, 4 Taking, 7 Pleasant, 8 Sloe, 10 Nick, 11 Sleep, 13 Dodgson, 14 Decent, 15 Shroud, 17 Riddle, 19 Bama, 20 Phog, 22 Sweet, 23 Sensation, 24 Barrel, 25 Releata.

DOWN: 1 Mowed, 2 Sole, 3 Double, 4 Tripod, 5 Ella, 6 Gasket, 7 Pooderson, 8 Eldersday, 11 Sarah, 12 Percil, 15 Saperch, 16 Damaed, 17 Rapton, 18 Estico, 21 Gear, 22 Seal.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 5 Wine made from pears (5)
 - 8 Pitiable (8)
 - 9 Month (5)
 - 10 Forebode (8)
 - 11 Decree (5)
 - 14 Light knock (3)
 - 16 Edible tuber (6)
 - 17 Beal, current (6)
 - 18 Bird (3)
 - 20 Puritan (5)
 - 24 Mistaken idea (8)
 - 25 Lukewarm (5)
 - 26 Pest, bore (8)
 - 27 Awry (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Flood (5)
 - 2 Gaze fixedly (5)
 - 3 Majestic (5)
 - 4 Film business (6)
 - 6 Hasten (8)
 - 7 Mackintosh (8)
 - 12 Stronghold (8)
 - 13 Heaven (8)
 - 14 Also (3)
 - 15 Chum (3)
 - 19 Miserable, grieving (6)
 - 21 Swear (5)
 - 22 Devil (5)
 - 23 Deduce (5)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, September 27, 1996

15

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (26.9.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5225	3.5794	—	—	3.5557
German mark	2.0718	2.1061	3.09	3.25	2.0920
French franc	4.9188	4.9859	4.33	5.07	4.9700
Japanese yen (100)	0.6123	0.6222	0.80	0.84	0.6181
Dutch guilder	2.8485	2.8855	2.80	2.94	2.8795
Swedish krona	1.8489	1.8767	1.81	1.91	1.8639
Norwegian krona	2.5191	2.5536	2.47	2.60	2.5448
Denish krone	0.4754	0.4831	0.48	0.49	0.4790
Finland mark	0.4853	0.4932	0.47	0.50	0.4899
Canadian dollar	0.5390	0.5477	0.52	0.58	0.5441
Australian dollar	0.6900	0.7012	0.67	0.72	0.6988
S. African rand	2.3022	2.3394	2.28	2.38	2.3267
Belgian franc (10)	2.4828	2.5331	2.45	2.57	2.5194
Austrian schilling (10)	0.8958	0.9071	0.88	0.91	0.9011
Italian lira (1000)	1.0061	1.0224	0.98	1.04	1.0158
Jordanian dinar	2.9482	2.9828	2.89	3.04	2.9735
Egyptian pound	2.0714	2.1049	2.03	2.14	2.0919
Israeli pound	4.3900	4.6900	4.38	4.88	4.4997
Irish punt	0.9000	0.9700	0.90	0.97	1.0017
Spanish peseta (100)	3.8589	4.0228	—	—	3.9020
	5.0486	5.1311	4.96	5.21	5.0960
	2.4829	2.5027	2.42	2.54	2.4888

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

High demand delays Orckit initial public offering

First Israeli company to be oversubscribed on Nasdaq exchange

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ORCKIT Communications Ltd.'s initial public offering on the Nasdaq over-the-counter exchange is expected to take place tonight following a one-day postponement due to oversubscription.

Orckit is the first Israeli company whose Wall Street-based IPO was delayed due to greater-than-expected demand.

Based in Tel Aviv, the maker of digital subscriber line (DSL) systems for Internet and other data transmission services originally planned to sell 2.5 million shares of the company's 3.3 million shares at \$12 to \$14 each. But strong demand caused the underwriters, Alex Brown & Sons, Inc., Montgomery Securities and Oppenheimer & Co., to postpone trading and

raise the companies valuation from \$200 million to \$230m. Shares are now expected to sell at \$14 to \$16.

The oversubscription is particularly outstanding in light of the current slowdown affecting Wall Street, analysts said.

"Something is really cooking here," said Kory Bardash, an analyst for the Ramat Gan-based Zanex Securities. "In an environment where there is a slowdown of IPOs on Wall Street, for one company to be so oversubscribed that they wait a day and raise the price \$2 portends very well for the company."

Orckit's DSL systems allow telephone companies to provide

high-speed digital transmission of data and voice over the "last mile" of existing telephone network. This allows companies to offer increased capabilities without undergoing the expensive procedure of replacing copper wirelines.

Although competition in the HDSL industry is tough, analysts said the company's technology is unique. They also noted that the company's valuation is within the "sanity range," an indication that the company may be able to keep up with investor expectations.

"It is not in a company's interest to be priced too high," said Jonathan Half, an analyst at

Oscar Gruss, who would not comment specifically on Orckit's IPO. "You don't want to see companies crash and burn."

Net losses for the six-month period that ended June 30, 1996 totaled \$1.46m., compared with \$1.11m. in the first six months of 1995. Revenues totaled \$5.07m. for the first half of 1996, up from \$1.95m. in the corresponding period last year.

Established in 1990, Orckit was founded by Eric Paneth, Izhak Tamir and Dan Arazi. Several of the company's senior officers, including Paneth, the company chairman, served as engineers in the Defense Ministry.

The company also has offices in Shelton, Connecticut.

BITS AND BYTES

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

IMPAC seeks Israeli partner: IMPAC Integrated Control Systems, a Florida-based management-productivity engineering firm, is seeking an Israeli partner to develop a local affiliate. For more information, contact IMPAC at (941) 639-6677.

Internet seminar to be featured at Jerusalem Business Conference: Several leading Internet entrepreneurs will speak at a seminar entitled "Internet Success Stories," November 10, as a part of the Jerusalem Business Conference, at the International Convention Center, Jerusalem. Ruth Alon of Netvision and Gil Shved of Check Point are among the scheduled speakers.

Logal launches its first Internet education products: Logal Educational Software & Systems recently announced that its interactive educational product, Function Investigator, can be accessed on the Internet. This science and math program can be found at www.logal.com.

Magic wins analyst choice award: PC Week magazine recently awarded its analyst choice award to Magic Software Enterprises for its Magic 7 tool, which the magazine said provides the best and fastest assistance in developing critical software applications. The tools developed by the Or Yehuda company allow programmers to develop software applications without writing lines of computer code, as is required in conventional programming language.

Zur Shamir, Leumi in talks over 20% stake in Direct Insurance

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ZUR Shamir Holdings is in advanced negotiations to sell 20 percent of its subsidiary, Direct Insurance, to Bank Leumi, the company informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

Direct Insurance's value, for the purpose of the transaction, is estimated at about \$22m. Bank Leumi said the purchase of the shares is part of its strategy to expand fields of activity.

Direct Insurance was founded jointly by Zur Shamir and Israel Corp. in 1994 as the first company in Israel to market insurance directly to the customers.

The company is controlled by Zur Shamir, which holds 95% of the shares. Joshua Agassi, managing director of Direct Insurance, and Meir Shani, chairman of the company, hold between them the remaining 5% of the company's shares.

If the transaction is carried out, Zur Shamir's holdings will drop to 76%, Bank Leumi will own 20% of the stock, and Agassi and Shani will own 4% of the stock. Agassi and Shani have an option to increase their stake in the company to 12%.

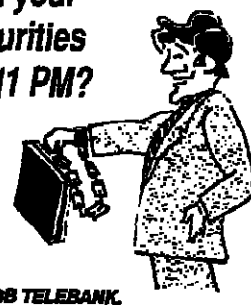
Direct Insurance completed the first six months of 1996 with a net profit of NIS 1.98m., compared with a net loss of NIS 789,000 in the corresponding period last year. According to the company's initial business plan, Direct Insurance was expected to end 1996 with a loss, and only in 1997 to start earning a profit.

In light of Zur Shamir's success, new companies have recently announced plans to enter the direct insurance field.

The Amot Hashifim Group, which includes Mizrahi Investments, and Export Investments, which is controlled by Zalman Shoval and Aminin, is expected to commence activities in November.

A second consortium, comprising US-based insurance conglomerate American International Group (AIG) and the Aurec telecom and media group, is expected to start operations in 1997.

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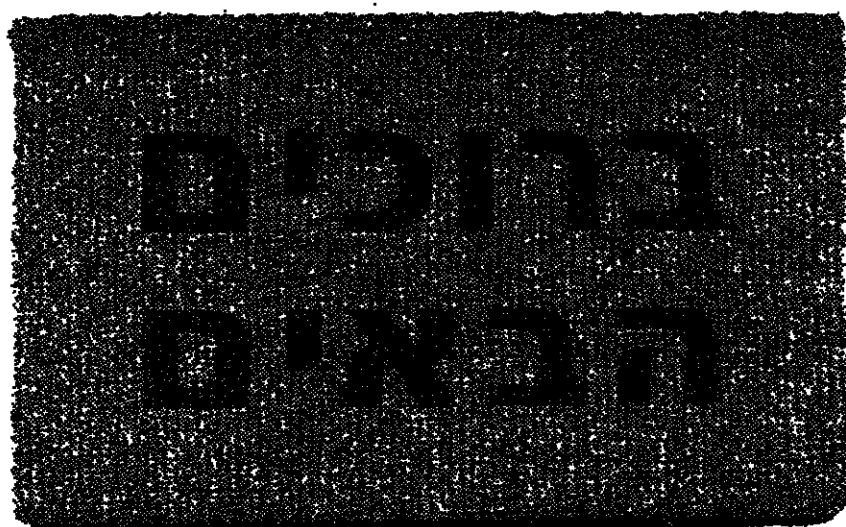
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Sterling NIS 4.9700 +0.26%
Mark NIS 2.0220 -0.47%

NYSE STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
DJ Industrials Last Change
NASDAQ Last Change

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 Last Change
Nikkei 225 Last Change

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE AMEX Last Change
Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Last Change

LIBOR MONEY MARKETS
Dollar crossrates (US)
Last Change

LIBOR rates
Dollar 3 months Last Change
Dollar 6 months Last Change

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US COMMODITIES
Last Change
Gold (Dec) 353.5 -1.7
Silver (Dec) 5.27 -0.02

London commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Dec) 195.00 -1.00
Coffee (Nov) 120.00 -1.00

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold (Dec) 353.5 -1.7
Silver (Dec) 5.27 -0.02

London metal fixes
Last Change
Gold AM & PM 353.5 -1.7
Silver AM & PM 5.27 -0.02

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AFTERNOON
MORNING
Name Price % Volume Price % Volume

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
London
Frankfurt
Stocks and bonds from various international markets.

TASE slumps amid violence

STOCKS on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange plunged amid yesterday's unrest. The Two-Sided Index plunged 4.17 percent to 188.62, while the Maof Index sank 4.36% to 197.48.

World markets on poor US report

LONDON (Reuter) - UK shares closed little changed yesterday, Wall Street opening led to late struggling for direction in thin end-of-quarter trading but receiving support from higher bonds after further signs the US economy was not as strong as thought.

US stocks mostly higher

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were mostly higher yesterday, boosting some measures to record levels, as the latest economic news sent interest rates lower again in the bond market.

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YEN 1.3769/86

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JERUSALEM

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MORESHET YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agron, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Services: Minhah 5:20 p.m., Shabbat 8:30 a.m., Minhah 4:25 p.m., Daily Minyan 7:00 a.m.

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

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ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

MUSEUM YESHIV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City mid-19th century - World War II. 6 or Ha-Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 443579.
Netanya: Clal Pharm, 60 Binyamin, 338091.
Kiryat area: Merkaz Menahem, 92 Sd. Yenushalayim, Kiryat Yam Alef, 875-9441.
Haifa: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 633-5312.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazin, 6 Maslita (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570488. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, September 27
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, September 28
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, orthopedics); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, September 28

Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit, Strass A. 3 Avigdor, 670-6662 (evening) Jaffa Gate, 628-3895; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 910108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 232058. Tel Aviv: Superpharm Gimel, 1 Ahimer, Ramat Aviv Gimel, 651-1717; Bloch, 32 Bloch, 522-6425. Tel midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 611-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Hagal Yarok, 8 Maharoshet, Ra'anana, 993637; (evening) Arza, 36 Ostrovsky, Ra'anana, 774-1613. Netanya: Hosharon mall, Herd, 617766. Kiryat area: Superpharm, Hakiryat, 44 Hakiryat, Kirya Sa'ik, 877-9320. Haifa: Baitour, 1 Massada, 862-2269.

POLICE 100

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazin, 6 Maslita (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 558472, 558407. Open 10 a.m. to midnight.
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Ashdod 5551333 Kfar Sava 9902222
Ashkelon 5551332 Nahariya 9912333
Beersheva 6274707 Netanya 6044444
Beit Shemesh 6523133 Petah Tikva 9311111
Dan Region 9793333 Rehovot 4513333
Eilat 6232444 Rishon 9642333
Haifa 8912233 Sufel 8203333
Jerusalem 6523133 Tel Aviv 5460111
Karmel 9985444 Tiberias 7824444

* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110.
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital, phone 04-852-9205 for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Erin - Emotional First Aid, Jerusalem 56-16303, Tel Aviv 548-1111 (children/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2222, Beersheva 649-4333, Netanya 625110, Karmel 988-8770, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 346789.

Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-3131 (men), Jerusalem 625-5598, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Emergency line for women in distress Sunday-Thursday 24 hrs. a day, Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 09-505720.
Wife hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-545-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6210, 09-855-0506 (also in Amharic).
Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chie St., Kiryat Harevel, Jm. Advice by phone 02-643-3622.

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Baka, Arab-style large 3 + loft, \$320,000
Kiryat Shmuel, 3, view, balcony, elevator, \$330,000
Gilo, 400 sqm villa, 10 rooms, garden, view, \$775,000
German Colony RENTAL, superb modern 9 room home, prestigious quiet central location, \$5,500 per month.

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DWELLINGS Jerusalem

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JEWISH QUARTER, 130 S.Q.M., convenient, quiet location, private, ground-floor entrance, magnificent living room, dining room, modern kitchen, huge master bedroom, second bedroom, den/sleeping area, 1.5 bathrooms, closets/storage areas. Private 41 sq.m. yard. For the discriminating, Abramovitz. Tel: 02-6271112, fax: 02-6245368.

KIRYAT HAYOVEL, GREEN, quiet, half two-family, 84 potential + garden, AHUZAT BAYIT. Tel: 02-5682111.

KIRYAT MOSHE, 4, double bathroom, parking, private heating, Succah porch. Tel: 02-666758.

KIRYAT SHMUEL (HAPARTZIM), 5, balconies, 1st floor, air-conditioning, \$450,000. ANGLO SAXON (MALDAN). Tel: 02-625-1181.

KIRYAT SHMUEL, 4, SPACIOUS, dinette, 1st floor, balconies, green and quiet. BEN ZVI. Tel: 02-563-0066, 02-563-1864.

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MALCHA, SPECIAL HOUSE + garden + porches + basement and parking. Keys at ZIMJKI. Tel: 02-5632221.

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MEVASERET VILLA, BEAUTIFUL 200 sq.m. + garden, parking, v. high standard, a/c. Tel: 02-566-0446, 02-568-0853.

NAHLAOT, 6, GARDEN apartment, 195 sq. m., renewed old house. H. YESCHUA. Tel: 02-624-4774.

NAHLAOT, WELL DESIGNED, double floor, possible to build on. Exclusive to BAIT. Tel: 02-625-9288.

OLD KATAMON, 4, 2nd floor, no agents, immediate. Tel: 02-671-0315, 02-6795289.

OLD CITY, One minute to Kotel, spacious home (270 sq. m.). Panoramic views, parking, large storage area, shelter for religious only. MISHKENOT, Tel: 02-627-0011, M. REALTY, Tel: 02-751438.

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OLD KATAMON (ALROI), 3.5, 2nd floor, quiet, balconies. Only \$265,000. ANGLO SAXON (MALDAN). Tel: 02-625-1161.

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4 room + 20 sq.m. balcony \$265,000

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LEV HASHARON FARM MOSHAV - LEV HASHARON 3 dunam,

Riots likely to put redeployment, Palestinian arms use high on agenda

THE violent events of the past two days are likely to put two issues high on the domestic agenda - the question of the redeployment in Hebron and the use of Israeli-approved arms by the Palestinian Police, according to Prof. Shmuel Sandler of Bar-Ilan University's Political Science Department.

"Every peace process is accompanied by violent episodes which do not mean that the process is being stopped," he said. "It will not be easy to get back on track, but we have to remember that neither side has an interest in stopping the process."

"Perhaps the first test that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will have to face is how will the bloody events of the past few days affect the redeployment in Hebron. At the same time, we can expect a public outcry over the Palestinians' use of arms which were given to them by Israel. Both the opposition and the government will have to react to these two

issues."

There is a clear Palestinian interest in creating the violence, Sandler said. "They would like to get the Israelis moving faster on the peace track. One way is through violence. In that sense, they have learned from Israel: When Israelis want something, they resort to rioting."

Netanyahu is in a bind, he said, because his track record shows that he is vulnerable to pressure. "I suggest to him to stand firm this time, but also to push forward with the process."

The price Israel will have to pay now internationally is three-fold, he believes.

"Firstly, there will likely be a worsening of ties with Europe. Secondly, there will be a severe straining of ties with Arab countries that have relations with Israel ... The status of our diplomatic legations there could be affected,"

BATSHEVA TSUR

Sandler said, though he ruled out the chance of breaking off ties. "They know they have to keep the channels open."

As far as the US is concerned, Sandler said, there is unlikely to be any adverse reaction, at least until after the presidential elections.

The third, and most important, question is how will Syria react, he said.

"President Hafez Assad will probably use the events to launch a diplomatic offensive against Israel. The situation might even draw him closer to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The Syrians are the only side who might be interested in not getting the process back on track."

The view that violence can act as a catalyst in bringing about a peace process was also not discounted by former GSS head

Yitzhak Perry. But Perry expressed concern over the "lack of determination on the part of the Palestinian Police to stop the rioters."

"Arafat," he said in an Israel Radio interview, "did not intend for things to get out of hand. The events have a dynamic of their own and then they get out of control. This may suit his political purposes ... But the lack of control does not show an overriding ability to rule. Therefore, I do not expect him to go too far."

The various security branches had warned for quite some time that there was likely to be violence on the part of the Palestinians, Perry said, but no security service could predict an exact date for such an outburst.

"Clearly the Palestinians were disappointed with the pace of the peace process, and then came the straw that broke the camels back," the opening of the new Hasmonean Tunnel exit, he said.

Arafat emerges stronger after violence

YASSER Arafat emerges from the two days of violent rioting politically stronger than he was a week ago.

After losing support among Palestinians frustrated at continued delays in the peace process, he has now managed to win it back and maintain a strong measure of support in the Arab world, the West, and even among Israelis.

The opening of the exit to the Hasmonean Tunnel in Jerusalem's Old City, acknowledged by Palestinian spokesmen to be a minor matter in itself, was the "straw that broke the camel's back," in words used by two close Arafat aides, Ahmed Tibi and Faisal Hussein. It has only had the political repercussions it has had because of the long list of Palestinian grievances which preceded it.

Arafat has shown himself to be politically astute. By violating the Oslo accords in the most extreme way, he has made the

COMMENT

JON IMMANUEL

violations for which Israel originally refused to advance the peace process seem petty.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is therefore faced with a dilemma. He must, like Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, acknowledge that even if his decision to open the exit was right, in politics "it is not enough to be right, you have to be wise." Conversely that means recognizing that while Arafat's decision to unleash his police on the IDF was wrong, it may be that he was politically smart.

Arafat has already turned the tables on Netanyahu by rejecting his urgent request for a meeting. If Netanyahu decides to put pride aside and swallow Arafat's severe violations of the Oslo accords, he will also

have to overlook Arafat's more minor infractions.

The danger is though, that the situation could get out of control, seriously weakening the peace process and leaving Arafat powerless to deal with it. It is therefore to be hoped that the PA chief can end the violence. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have already announced from Amman and Beirut their intention to encourage armed intifada and perpetrate suicide attacks, confident that angry Palestinians will support them.

Palestinian Council member Ziad Abu Amr summed up general Palestinian feelings toward the riots, saying: "With all the tragic results of the past two days, it seems that the peace process needed this jump start as a strong message to the Israeli government. I hate to say that violence and death are positive, but it may feed into activating the peace process."



Wearied soldiers wait to be rescued from inside the Joseph's Tomb in Nabhus yesterday. (Khaled Zighan)

'Ben' and 'Kobi': Babies who need families

ESTHER HECHT

FEALS of laughter ring out from the room where "Ben" is playing with his "mother." She's showing him a picture book and when she asks, "Where's the dog?" he grasps her finger and points it toward the animal.

She turns the page and shows him a cow. His big green eyes light up and again he laughs, tossing his blond locks. He loves the game and he loves the cuddling.

But "Ben" can't stay with this "mother" any longer. Here is a temporary placement home for children who have nowhere else to go. He needs a permanent home with a loving family who can help him grow to his full potential.

Born prematurely but healthy a year ago, "Ben" was abandoned by his parents in the hospital when they learned he had suffered from a lack of oxygen just after birth. Despite this inauspicious start, "Ben" has blossomed.

When he's by himself, he plays and babbles. He can distinguish strangers from his temporary "family," but he charms everyone with his winning smile and pleasant disposition.

He can creep on his stomach, holding his head high, and is just beginning to crawl on all fours. "Ben" can even stand, with the help of a "stander." Twice a week he has physiotherapy to help develop the muscles in his limbs. Everyone who knows "Ben" believes he will bring joy to the family that adopts him.

"Ben" is one of about a dozen infants abandoned in hospitals here each year, according to Gila Hugi, of the Services for the Child in the Labor and Social Affairs

Ministry. Unlike "Ben," many of them have Down's Syndrome, though their number is decreasing because of increased prenatal testing for the chromosomal defect that causes DS. Also, the general public, as well as the medical world, is becoming more aware of the potential DS children have. Just this week, 18 boys with DS completed a stint of voluntary service in the IDF.

"Kobi" was born just three weeks ago. He has a shock of black hair, gray-blue eyes and light skin. His birth weight was just under 3 kilos, but he's able to drink from a bottle and has already passed the 3-kg mark.

Unlike some DS children, "Kobi" has no heart defect or any other apparent medical problem. In fact, his most serious problem at the moment is that he's in a hospital. "Kobi" needs a home with a supportive, loving family willing to invest the extra effort he needs to help him develop.

According to Hugi, who supervises adoption of Down's Syndrome children and is also handling the adoption of "Ben," who does not have DS, some of the restrictions regarding adoptive parents are waived in placing a child who needs extra care. If a married couple can't be found, the service will even consider adoption by a single parent.

"Ben" and "Kobi" are waiting for someone to take them home and love them. Call 02-754701 and leave a message for Gila Hugi, or call Telemeser, 03-565-2255, 24 hours a day. Someone will be on call to answer messages throughout the holiday.

Levy: Zameret panel has no mandate to discuss public transport on Shabbat

HAIM SHAPIRO

TRANSPORT Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday told the members of the Zameret Committee that, in his view, their brief did not include the issue of public transport on Shabbat, but he added that the committee itself had to decide how to act.

The committee, appointed by Levy at the behest of the High Court of Justice, which ruled that it could not decide on whether Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan could be closed on Shabbat until a committee dealt with the entire issue of

traffic on Shabbat. The four non-religious members of the committee have insisted that this includes public transport, while the religious members maintain the sole issue is the closing of streets.

Dr. Zvi Zameret, chairman of the committee, told Levy that he opposes public bus service on Shabbat, but at the same time feels that the issue must be discussed. If the brief of the committee is narrowed, he warned, it could well mean its dis-

solution. Levy attempted to deal with the specific issue of Rehov Bar-Ilan. He stressed that other streets are closed on Shabbat for a variety of reasons, in the interest of various sectors of the population. He said there is no need to deal with long-range planning of which streets could or should be closed, since it is impossible to determine what demographic patterns will be in the future.

The committee is due to resume its sessions after Succot.

WOUNDED

to get out of this lunatic country. But we have to enlist. And we get no thanks, not during our service and not after - that is, if we survive."

Aharon, whose friend's son was shot in the forehead at Kfar Darom, was exhausted after waiting at the hospital all day.

"They're going to bring us the bullet which they extracted from Hezy's head during the operation," he said. "An Israeli bullet, shot by the Palestinian Police."

Aharon said Hezy, 20, who served in an elite Givati unit, was due to be discharged in six weeks.

and was wounded during a training exercise only eight months ago.

"I had a strange feeling this morning," said Aharon. "I phoned the army base at 7:30 a.m., and everything was all right. Then I phoned later on and someone said he couldn't tell me anything. We phoned Soroka Hospital where we learned [that he had been taken to Sheba with a head wound]. Hezy was shot at 10:20 a.m."

Dr. Ya'acov Yahav, deputy director of the hospital, said that all the wounded were evacuated quickly and that all medical personnel were on full alert.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

Unrest expected to have adverse effect on tourism

THE Tourism Ministry this week unveiled a new hi-tech video program on Israel, but tourism officials admitted that the sweeping aerial views, magnificent as they are, would not be able to counter the television news broadcasts featuring stones and bullets in Ramallah and Gaza.

Speaking at the showing of the three-screen film in Tel Aviv on Wednesday night, Tourism Ministry Director-General Shabi Shai said that the ministry had intended to launch a major media campaign aimed at turning around the tourism slump which began following the bus bombings in March. However, he said, after the violence that day, the min-

istry would not undertake the campaign.

"It would be a waste of money," he said.

Shai was speaking in place of Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who was acting prime minister and had more pressing affairs to deal with. Only a few days ago, the Hotel Association said it saw signs that tourism from abroad was beginning to pick up. In August, there were 14 percent fewer tourists than in August 1995, while in July there had been 22% fewer than the previous year. But yesterday, association director Avi Rosenthal admitted that as soon as televi-

HAIM SHAPIRO

sion stations around the world began showing scenes of the fighting, it would influence tourism.

"It is clear that tourism everywhere is dependent on the geopolitical situation, the feeling of security, and the image a country has," Rosenthal said.

Ami Etgar, director of the Tour Operators Association, said that based on the surge of tourism at the beginning of the year, there was a forecast of 11.5 million bed nights by foreign tourists. At the beginning of the week, the experts were predicting 9.5 million; by Wednesday the estimates were down to 8 million; and after

yesterday's fighting, the prediction was 7.5 million.

It is too early to begin talking of cancellations and the feeling is "that bookings for Succot would probably not be affected, if only because it is too late for travelers to change their plans. Yonatan Harpaz, director of the Jerusalem Hotel Association, said many of the Christian visitors for the International Feast of Tabernacles festival had already arrived.

There were individual cancellations, but he still forecast an occupancy rate of about 80 percent in Jerusalem over the holiday.

"That is, if the situation doesn't deteriorate further," Harpaz said.

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Yankees clinch AL East crown

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Yankees clinched their first AL East title since 1981 with their highest-scoring game in 34 years, a 19-2 rout of the Milwaukee Brewers in the first game of a doubleheader Wednesday.

The Yankees completed the sweep with a 6-2 win in the night-cap.

New York needed only one win in the doubleheader to lock up the division title, and they got it with an awesome offensive display in the opener.

"We set out in the spring on a mission, and this is just a part of it," first-year manager Joe Torre said. "We have three more steps to go, but it's a big thrill. What helped us is the fact that we have veterans and nobody panicked."

After scoring four runs in the first inning, the Yankees scored 10 more in the second to open a 14-1 lead. The most productive first two innings in the club's 94-year history, and its highest run total since 1962, finally allowed the Yankees to relax following two tense weeks.

David Cone (7-2) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings of play.

Tino Martinez's three-run homer off Tim Lincecum (3-5) helped New York take a 3-0 lead in the first before the Yankees sent 15 batters to the plate in the second — their largest one-inning output in more than three years.

The crowd, which trickled in during the first game, stood for the first pitch of the ninth inning to the last, a fly out by Fernando Vina to center fielder Bernie Williams.

"After the catch, confetti floated from the upper deck as the Yankees celebrated in the infield. New York City police in riot gear,

however, ringed the field and prevented fans from joining in.

Orioles 6, Red Sox 2

The Baltimore Orioles improved their wild-card chances by beating the host Red Sox.

The Orioles, eliminated from the AL East when New York won earlier in the day, led by only one run before Mark Parent hit a three-run homer off Tim Wakefield (14-13) in the ninth. Eddie Murray walked and B.J. Surhoff singled before Parent hit his ninth homer of the season.

Boston's fading playoff hopes grew even sadder. The Red Sox trail Baltimore by four games with four to play, and can at best force a one-game playoff for the wild-card spot.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dodgers 7, Giants 5

Eric Karros hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning as host Los Angeles rallied from a five-run deficit to clinch at least a tie for a playoff spot.

The Dodgers, who trailed 5-0 in the sixth, need one more win or a Montreal loss to clinch at least a wild-card berth outright.

Scott Radinsky (5-1), who pitched a hitless eighth, got the win. Todd Worrell finished with a perfect ninth for his major-league leading 44th save.

Karros led off the eighth with his 34th homer, connecting against Rich DeLucia (3-6).

Barry Bonds set a National League record for walks in a season with 149 when he drew an intentional pass from Mark Guthrie in the seventh inning.

The walk was the second of the game for the Giants outfielder. The previous NL record of 148 was set by Eddie Stankoy of the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 and tied by Jimmy Wynn of Houston



HOW SWEET IT IS — Yankee players celebrate after beating the Brewers to win the AL East title. (AP)

in 1969.

Babe Ruth set the major league record of 170 for the New York Yankees in 1923.

Rockies 5, Padres 3

Ellis Burks and Quinton McCracken homered as Colorado strangled the Padres for the second straight night.

Burks' 39th homer of the season, a two-run drive, gave the Rockies a 4-1 lead with two outs in the fifth and helped chase Joey Hamilton (15-9).

WILD CARD RACE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	86	72	.544	—
Seattle	84	73	.535	1 1/2
Chicago	84	75	.528	2 1/2
Boston	82	76	.519	4

REMAINING GAMES

BALTIMORE (4) — AWAY (4): Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29, Toronto.

SEATTLE (5) — AWAY (5): Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29, Oakland; 30, Cleveland (if necessary).

CHICAGO (3) — AWAY (3): Sept. 27, 28, 29, Minnesota.

BOSTON (4) — HOME (4): Sept. 26, 27, 28, 29, New York.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	94	64	.595	—
Montreal	86	72	.544	8
Cincinnati	78	80	.494	16
New York	70	88	.443	24
Philadelphia	65	93	.411	29

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	86	73	.541	—
Cincinnati	78	79	.500	6 1/2
Houston	79	79	.500	6 1/2
Chicago	75	82	.478	10
Pittsburgh	70	88	.443	15 1/2

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	90	58	.609	—
San Diego	88	71	.553	2 1/2
Colorado	82	77	.516	8 1/2
San Francisco	65	93	.411	25

—clinched division title

'Underdog' Russians shock 'mighty' Maccabi at buzzer

CSKA Moscow hands Maccabi first Euro loss, 78-77

THE new and improved Maccabi Tel Aviv looked a lot like the old and faltering team of last year, losing 78-77 to CSKA Moscow at Yad Eliahu after blowing a 12-point lead midway through the second half in the Euro League last night.

Igor Koudelin sank his sixth three-pointer of the night with only four seconds remaining to give CSKA its first lead of the half and its first victory at Yad Eliahu in three all-time attempts in the championships.

The win evens Moscow's record at 1-1 in Group A, while Maccabi falls to 1-1 and suffers its first taste of defeat this season after 16 consecutive wins (including 13 in preseason competition and two league victories).

Maccabi's loss was reminiscent of the team's collapse at home last European season, when it blew three straight games at Yad Eliahu to fall out of competition for the quarter-finals.

The shame is that Maccabi was clearly the better team, and the club played better than it did in its victory last week at Limoges.

Maccabi wasted an outstanding performance from Randy White, who carried the team with 29

points, including 16 of Maccabi's 29 second-half points.

But, like last year, it was Maccabi's lack of fundamental execution and concentration down the stretch that did them in.

The Israelis were only 11 for 22 from the free-throw line last night, and White and Buck Johnson were the only ones to score a field goal in the last 13 minutes of the game.

Another similarity to last season was a wasted fine performance by Brad Leaf, who came off the bench with 7:35 remaining in the first half and Maccabi up 26-25.

He immediately provided a spark for the offense, hitting his first four field goals and scoring 10 points in the half to propel the blue and yellow to a 48-37 advantage at the break.

The capacity crowd roared its approval in the second half when, after CSKA quickly closed the gap to 48-45, Maccabi raced back to open up its biggest lead of the game at 66-54 with only 10 minutes remaining in the game.

But the offense unexpectedly faltered, and Moscow consistently and patiently found the open man to exploit its sharpshooting from

long distance, connecting on 10 of 16 three-pointers on the night (including 6 of 9 for Koudelin).

For Maccabi, White had 29 points, Johnson 17, Leaf 10, Doron Sheffer 7, Derek Sharp 6 and Oded Katash and Nadav Henefeld 4.

For CSKA, Koudelin had 21 points, while Valeri Daineko had 15 and Serguei Bazarevich 11. The club's two foreigners, Marcus Webb and Edmond Wilson, had only 4 and 3 points respectively.

In other Group A action last night, Stefanel Milan defeated Limoges 85-74 in France to go 2-0 and take over first place. Ulker recorded its first victory with an 87-69 thrashing of Panionios in Istanbul.

Next Thursday, Maccabi hosts Stefanel Milan, while CSKA takes on Ulker in its first home game of the Euro League. In the other contest, Limoges travels to Panionios in search of its first victory.

GROUP A

Team	W	L	Pts
Stefanel Milan	2	0	4
Maccabi Tel Aviv	1	1	3
Panionios	1	1	3
Ulker	1	1	3
CSKA Moscow	1	1	3
Limoges	0	2	2

Liverpool advances in Cup Winners Cup

LONDON (AP) — Several of the favorites in the Cup Winners Cup — Liverpool, Benfica, PSV Eindhoven and Fiorentina — moved into the second round of the competition after first-round, second-leg matches yesterday.

Liverpool, leading just 1-0 after the first leg, won 3-1 over Finnish part-timers MyPa-47 to advance 4-1 on aggregate. Patrik Berger of the Czech Republic gave Liverpool a 1-0 lead in the 17th minute, notching his fifth goal in three games. Stan Collymore and John Barnes added second-half goals.

Portuguese side Benfica cruised into the second round with a scoreless draw at Polish side Ruch Chorzow. Benfica won the first-leg match at home 5-1 and advanced on that aggregate score.

Holland's PSV beat Georgia's Dynamo Batumi 3-0 at the Philips Stadium to advance to the second round 4-1 on aggregate. Belgian international Luc Nilis opened the scoring on a 16th-minute penalty. Rene Eijkelkamp made it 2-0 in the 57th, and substitute Marcelo got the third in the 86th.

Italians Fiorentina won 1-0 and advanced 2-1 on aggregate over Romanian club Gloria Bistrita with the winning goal coming in

the first half from midfielder Massimo Orlando.

Turkish side Galatasaray — another of the stronger teams in the field — knocked Moldova's Constructorul out of the competition with a 4-0 win and advanced 5-0 on aggregate. Galatasaray's goal were from Hakan Sukur, Arif Erdem, George Hagi and Tugay Keremoglu.

AEK Athens moved on with a 2-1 win at Slovakia's Chemlon Humenne for a 3-1 aggregate. Chemlon's Pavol Diva scored after just 19 seconds for the losers, but AEK rebounded in the 19th minute on a strike by Demis Nikolaidis, and got the second in the 44th from Daniel Batista.

Swedish side AIK of Solna advanced to the second round of after a 1-1 draw with KR Reykjavik for a 2-1 aggregate. Pascal Simpson scored the opening goal for AIK in the 80th minute and Gudmundur Benediktsson equalized in the 90th for the Icelanders.

The Czech side Sparta Prague played a 1-1 draw at home with Austrian's Sturm Graz and advanced 3-3 on aggregate on the

away-goal rule. The first-leg match was 2-2 in Austria. Sparta's Jiri Novotny scored an own-goal in the 76th to give the Austrians a lead, but Michal Hornak scored in the 87th to save the match.

Norwegians Brann defeated Cercle Brugge of Belgium 4-0 to advance on a 6-3 aggregate. Striker Mons Ivar Mjelde paced the Norwegian part-timers with two goals. Defender Claus Eftevaag and midfielder Roger Helland scored the others.

In Varazdin, Croatia, Lokomotiv Moscow advanced despite a 2-1 loss to the home-side FC Varteks. Lokomotiv won the first leg at home 1-0 and advanced on a 2-2 aggregate by virtue of the away-goal rule.

In a lopsided game, Sion of Switzerland advanced on a 6-0 aggregate after at 4-0 win Thursday at Ukrainian side Niva Vinnytsia.

In Ljubljana, Slovenia, Olimpija Ljubljana played a scoreless draw with AFG Aarhus of Denmark, but advanced on aggregate 1-1 with an away goal in the match two weeks ago in Denmark.

In Belgrade: Red Star Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 4, Kaiserslautern (Germany) 0 (after extra time, 90 mins 1-0). Scorers: Dejan Stankovic (55th, 87th), Nisic (107th), Pantalic (120th). Red Star wins 4-1 on aggregate.

In Florence: Fiorentina (Italy) 1, Gloria Bistrita (Romania) 0 (1-0). Scorers: Massimo Orlando (22nd). Fiorentina wins 2-1 on aggregate.

In Budapest: Kaposi Horvad (Hungary) 1, Nimes (France) 2 (0-2). Scorers: Nimes — Johnny Ecker (7th), Eric Sabin (38th). Nimes wins 5-2 on aggregate.

In Larnaca: AEK Larnaca (Cyprus) 0, Barcelona (Spain) 0. Barcelona wins 2-0 on aggregate.

In Paris: Paris Saint-Germain (France) 3, Vaduz (Liechtenstein) 0 (2-0). Scorers: Bernard Allou (22nd), Alain Roche (40th), Patrick Mboma (48th). PSG wins 7-0 on aggregate.

In Liverpool: Liverpool (England) 3, MyPa-47 (Finland) 1 (1-0). Scorers: Liverpool — Patrik Berger (18th), Stan Collymore (69th), John Barnes (78th), MyPa-47 — Mauri Keskialto (64th). Liverpool wins 4-1 on aggregate.

In Eindhoven: PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 3, Dynamo Satuni (Georgia) 0 (1-0). Scorers: Luc Nilis (15th), Rene Eijkelkamp (53rd), Marcelo (83rd). PSV wins 4-1 on aggregate.

Top tennis players coming for Eisenberg Open

LOCAL SCENE

HEATHER CHAIT

"THIS is going to be a great tournament" says Ian Froman, president of the Israeli Tennis Centers of this year's Eisenberg Israel Open — and the facts are there to support him.

Three of the world's top 20 players will be competing in the \$328,000 tournament in Ramat Hasharon from October 14-20, the highlight of the Israeli tennis calendar: Wimbledon finalist Malivai Washington (12), Alberto Costa (15) and Felix Mantilla (16) are the leading trio but trying to ace them will be Hernan Gombay, Marc-Kevin Goellner (who beat Guy Forget this week in Basel), Javier Sanchez, past winner Stefano Pescosolido, Richard Fromberg and 1996 Jerusalem Open winner Grant Stafford.

The tournament, which began in 1979, is now sponsored by Joyce Eisenberg, a major sponsor of the Israeli Tennis Centers, and the group of "Top 10" companies.

Double victory

Celebrating was in order on the table tennis circuit last week as Israel's two teams in the European Cup tournament both won their matches.

Maccabi Tel Aviv with Guy Basis, Izak Abramov and Alex Kurtz beat Sportak Subotica from Yugoslavia 4-0. Not lagging behind was Betar Rishon LeZion whose women players Marina Tarchenko, Maria Rotru and Shir Hous beat Danish champions Fren Sakskobing 4-1.

Both teams now advance to the third round of the competition.

Hospitable hosts

Maccabi Kiryat Ono will host the preliminary rounds of the European Champions Cup water-polo event at Herzliya's country club. Kiryat Ono has carved a reputation as friendly hosts — this will be the fourth successive time the tournament is held here.

Falling on the ropes

Vladislav Neiman is learning about life as a loser. After the boxer's unimpressive showing in Atlanta, he and his coach, Valery Rarava, have now been thrown out by their club Maccabi Nesher Azaria.

Neiman, who received a monthly NIS 1,300 stipend from the club, is now looking for another club and has even been training in the streets.

Maccabi TA now focused for league play

ORI LEWIS

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of astronaut Shannon Lucid, Maccabi Tel Aviv will come back to earth tomorrow afternoon when it meets Zefirium Holon on its first, post-European season match in the National League for this season.

The Tel Avivians, who were dumped out of the UEFA Cup by Tenerife despite an excellent performance which ended in a 1-1 draw at Ramat Gan on Wednesday night, must now focus on winning the National League title for a third season in a row if it wants another crack at the European Champions' League and a place among the stars of continental soccer.

Fortunately, there is probably no easier place for Maccabi to start the mission of regaining those heights than at Holon, which should not be tough opponents for the champions. Maccabi can expect an easy time at the municipal ground in Rishon if only it can reproduce Wednesday's standard of play.

Leader Betar Jerusalem also looks to have an easy match in prospect, it takes on Maccabi Herzliya, which has yet to score a goal this season. And with Betar currently in top form, the hosts will control play at Teddy Stadium. It appears unlikely that Herzliya's fortunes will change for the better in the capital.

In other matches, second-placed Hapoel Petah Tikva will try to keep up with the leaders as it takes on Maccabi Petah Tikva in that city's derby.

Bnei Yehuda hosts Hapoel Beersheba in a match in which both teams will be hoping to regain some of their lost pride while Hapoel Taiba will have another tough match as it looks for its second league win. Hapoel Haifa will be very difficult to overcome even at Taiba's home away from home in Netanya.

Elsewhere, Hapoel Tel Aviv hosts Hapoel Jerusalem at Bloomfield, and Maccabi Haifa takes on bottom side Hapoel Beit She'an, a team the Haifaites have struggled against in the past.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches kick off tomorrow at 15:30 unless otherwise stated):

Zefirium Holon vs. Maccabi Tel Aviv, Rishon 17:45; Betar Jerusalem vs. Maccabi Herzliya, Teddy Stadium 16:00; Bnei Yehuda vs. Hapoel Beersheba, Hatikva Quarter; Hapoel Taiba vs. Hapoel Haifa, Netanya; Hapoel Petah Tikva vs. Maccabi Petah Tikva, Petah Tikva; Maccabi Haifa vs. Hapoel Beit She'an Kiryat Elizer 18:00; Hapoel Kfar Sava vs. Iron Rishon, Kfar Sava, today 15:30; Hapoel Tel Aviv vs. Hapoel Jerusalem, Bloomfield 16:30.

SPORTS BRIEFS

English league cup third round draw

Draw for the third round of the English Football League Cup made on Wednesday. York vs. Leicester, Tottenham vs. Sunderland, Port Vale vs. Oxford, Bolton vs. Chelsea, Wimbledon vs. Luton, West Ham vs. Nottingham Forest, Charlton vs. Liverpool, Gillingham vs. Coventry, Ipswich vs. Crystal Palace, Southampton vs. Lincoln, Blackburn vs. Stockport, Manchester United vs. Swindon, Watford vs. Reading, Newcastle vs. Oldham, Stoke vs. Arsenal, Leeds vs. Aston Villa.

Draw to be played next beginning October 21. *Reuters*

Liverpool's Ruddock fined for lying

Liverpool center defender Neil Ruddock was fined £300 pounds yesterday for telling "blatant lies" to police after a friend crashed his sports car.

Southport magistrates found Ruddock guilty of obstructing justice after he claimed the Porsche 911 had been stolen. In fact, his friend had been driving the car when it crashed in January. *Reuters*

Bulls sign Parish to two-year pact

Center Robert Parish, who has played more games than any player in NBA history, signed a two-year contract with the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday.

Parish, 43, will be entering his 21st season, also the most in league history. He had shared the record of 20 with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who retired in 1989.

Parish, who has played 1,568 games — eight more than Abdul-Jabbar — is 13th on the NBA's all-time scoring list with 23,173 points. He comes to the Bulls as a free agent after having played four seasons with the Golden State Warriors, 14 seasons with the Boston Celtics and the last two with the Charlotte Hornets. *AP*

Merson recalled to England squad

LONDON (Reuters) — Arsenal midfielder Paul Merson was recalled to the England squad by coach Glenn Hoddle yesterday two years after his self-confessed drinks, drugs and gambling problems.

Merson, who underwent rehabilitation for his problems and has recently been playing some of the best football of his career, was among the 23-man squad named for the World Cup qualifier against Poland on October 9.

The squad — Goalkeepers: David Seaman (Arsenal), Ian Walker (Tottenham), David James (Liverpool); Defenders: Gareth Southgate (Aston Villa), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Gary Neville (Man U), Gary Pallister (Man U), Sol Campbell (Tottenham), Dominic Matteo (Liverpool);

Midfield: Paul Ince (Inter Milan, Italy), Paul Gascoigne (Rangers, Scotland), David Beckham (Man U), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), David Batty (Newcastle), Andy Elchelt (Everton), David Platt (Arsenal), Paul Merson (Arsenal);

Forwards: Nick Barnby (Middlesex), Alan Shearer (Newcastle), Les Ferdinand (Newcastle), Matt Le Tissier (Southampton), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool).

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Unrest continues in Jerusalem; 40 Arabs held

BILL HUTMAN

SOME 40 Palestinians were detained in Jerusalem yesterday for rock- and bottle-throwing and participating in protest marches, which have been banned by police, in sporadic unrest, a police spokesman said.

Shots were fired at cars at the southern entrance of the new Gush Etzion-Jerusalem tunnel, forcing its closure in the afternoon, as soldiers searched the area for the gunmen. There were no injuries, despite at least one bullet hitting a vehicle.

Palestinian religious and national leaders tried to stage a demonstration near the Hasmonean Tunnel in the Old City, but were forcibly dispersed by dozens of baton-wielding border policemen.

Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, who was slightly injured, charged that Israel is showing unwillingness to open a real dialogue with the Palestinian Authority in an effort to defuse tensions.

"It is still possible that we can bring things under control," he said, adding that the violence that has broken out in the territories is meant not only as a protest against Israel, but also shows the Palestinian public's discontent with the PA.

Only several dozen Palestinian youths joined in the march. Organizers dismissed the low turnout, saying police had prevented others who wanted to take part from entering the Old City. They also noted several hundred protesters took part in another protest in the Old City later in the day.

A senior police source, however, said that "Palestinians in Jerusalem have more to lose, especially economically, than those in the territories, so they are less eager to join protests."



Nasser Qos (center), Palestinian Authority Minister for Jerusalem Affairs Faisal Hussein's bodyguard, holds his hands as he is clubbed by Border Police yesterday during a protest in the Old City over the opening of an exit from the Hasmonean Tunnel.

"Jerusalem's Palestinians also know that we are everywhere in the city. In Ramallah, residents can run for cover in the PA controlled area. They don't have that option in Jerusalem."

He cautioned, however, that the massive unrest in the territories could easily sweep through eastern Jerusalem, and spark larger protests.

A cross-section of Palestinian leaders, ranging from Wafiq Sheikh Mohammed Hussein and Hamas-affiliated Jamil Hamami to PA Councilman Hattem Abdel

Khader and Khalid Shkirat, a well-known human rights activist, took part in the march.

Deputy-Commander David Givati, police commander in the Old City, refused Hussein's request to hold a rally by the new exit to the Hasmonean Tunnel. Police forced the small group of protesters to move out of the Old City in the direction of Damascus Gate.

When they halted just inside the gate and Hussein began to make a speech attacking the government, dozens of baton-wielding border

policemen began beating the protesters, forcing them to disperse.

Youths threw bottles and rocks at the policemen, who quickly cleared the area. Palestinian sources said Hussein was hit by policemen and slightly injured. Hundreds of policemen were on patrol throughout eastern Jerusalem.

In the A-Tur neighborhood, Palestinian youths set fires on fire and placed rocks on the main road in an effort to halt traffic, but were quickly dispersed by police, the police spokesman said. In Jebel

Mukaber, youths also set fire to tires to block roads.

Meanwhile, Knesset Interior Committee Chairman Salah Tarif (Labor) called the government's

decision to open the new exit a mistake, after visiting the site in the morning.

"The timing was simply miserable," he said.

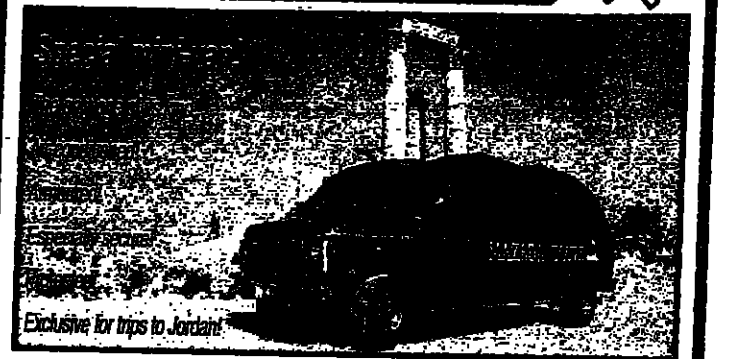
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WEATHER

Jerusalem 17-27
Tiberias 22-32
Afula 19-30
Samartha 17-27
Tel Aviv 23-29
Beer Sheva 20-31
Dead Sea 24-36

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.
Shabbat: Hotter

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	PRECIP.		
	C	F	C F C F		
Amsterdam	07	45	18	64	cloudy
Berlin	07	45	15	59	rain
Brussels	08	45	15	59	rain
Chicago	14	57	18	64	clear
Düsseldorf	06	43	13	55	clear
Frankfurt	07	45	16	61	cloudy
Geneva	08	48	17	63	clear
Hamburg	08	48	14	57	clear
Hong Kong	26	79	28	84	clear
Jakarta	26	79	28	84	clear
London	13	55	25	77	clear
Madrid	11	52	28	82	clear
Moscow	09	48	18	64	cloudy
New York	09	48	18	64	cloudy
Paris	09	48	18	64	clear
Rome	12	54	23	73	cloudy
Sydney	11	51	20	72	clear
Tokyo	08	48	18	64	cloudy
Vancouver	08	48	18	64	rainy
Zurich	08	43	15	59	rainy

Jerusalem police doubles force for today's prayers on Mount

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM'S police force is being nearly doubled in anticipation of unrest at Friday prayers today at Al-Aksa on the Temple Mount.

Police are counting on the closure, which forbids Palestinians from the territories from entering Jerusalem, and a large police presence to ensure the prayers pass peacefully.

Early this week, the Western Wall Plaza had to be closed for a short time because of stone-throwing by Palestinian youths on the Temple Mount.

The upcoming Succot holiday also marks the sixth anniversary of the Temple Mount riots, in which 17 Palestinians were killed. Since then, security forces have taken extra precautions when dealing with potential unrest at Al-Aksa.

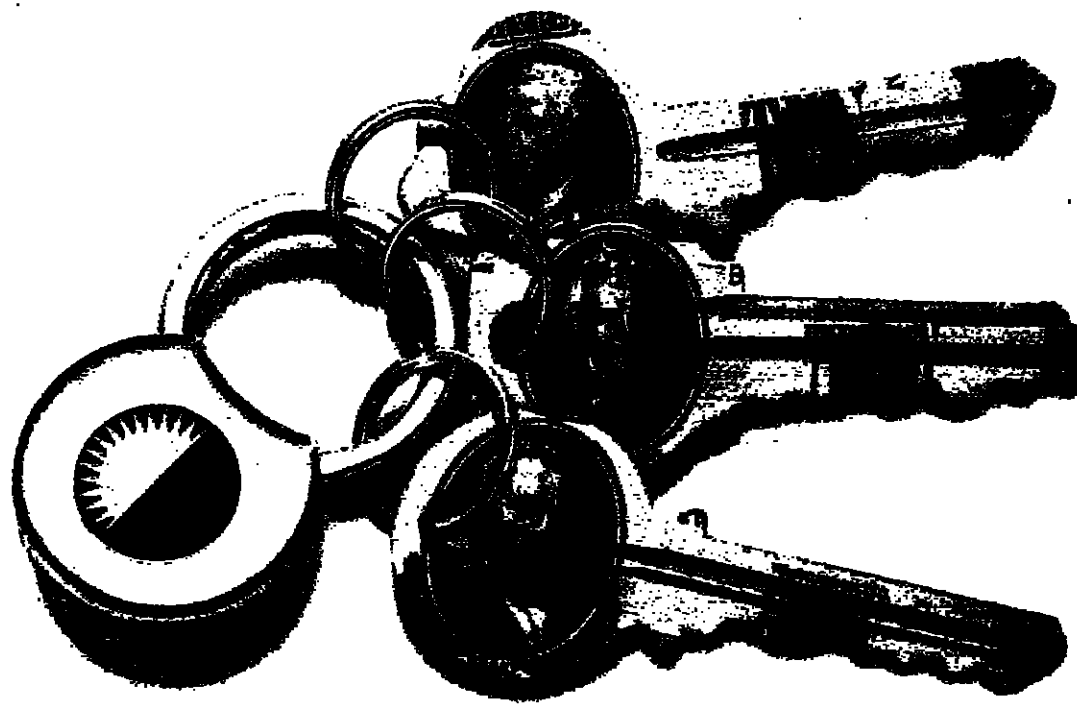
Some 4,000 policemen are to be on duty in the capital today, compared to just over 2,000 normally, according to police sources. Most of the forces will be concentrated in eastern Jerusalem, and in particular the Old City.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz yesterday ordered all vacations canceled and 12-hour shifts for policemen to be put in effect, as part of "emergency measures," to prevent the unrest in the territories from spreading into Israel.

Hefetz said the major concerns are Jerusalem, possible unrest in the Arab sector elsewhere in the country, and the continued threat of terror attacks.

Police brass met in the afternoon at National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem to review preparations for prayers today at Al-Aksa, and other internal security matters in light of the unrest in the territories.

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